



**HDP Nexus
Coalition**

FIGHTING FOOD CRISES

CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE:

**Conflict, Hunger and the
Strategic Positioning of
the HDP Nexus Coalition**



What is the HDP Nexus Coalition?

The Coalition emerged from the United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021 as a multi-stakeholder mechanism to support Member States affected by food crises and conflict in the operationalization and implementation of their **National Food Systems Transformation Pathways**.

The Coalition is co-chaired by the **group of Seven Plus (g7+)**, the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and the **World Food Programme (WFP)**. It brings together over 65 members committed to mobilizing HDP Nexus approach to leverage food systems transformation plans to address the underlying factors of food crises. The Coalition Secretariat is hosted by the **Global Network Against Food Crises**.

Through its diverse membership and the leadership roles of the g7+ and SIPRI, the Coalition brings a distinctive perspective on the core drivers of food crises, and the centrality of peace to achieving sustainable food security.

The HDP Nexus Coalition's approach is framed by three key dimensions:

- **Supporting the implementation of food system national pathways in fragile contexts:** the Coalition leverages its membership and partnerships to support nationally-led food systems transformation processes.
- **Advocating for a strong focus on peace and conflict in global food system dialogues:** the Coalition plays a crucial role in promoting the inclusion of the unique challenges and perspectives of fragile countries in global policy discussions and ensuring that the agency of the most vulnerable is adequately considered.
- **Promoting a common understanding of** the interlinked drivers of food crises and the importance of applying HDP nexus approaches to address them, particularly the overlooked peace element.





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What issues affect food systems in fragile contexts?

A. The number of protracted food crises and conflicts is increasing.

- Food crises are becoming increasingly protracted, pushing communities into long-term distress, and undermining their ability to cope with recurring shocks.
- In 2023, an estimated 19 countries had experienced a major food crisis each year since 2016. These countries host up to 80 percent of the people facing acute hunger in the world.¹
- The number of active violent conflicts is on the rise, and they are also becoming increasingly severe and protracted. 2022 has seen the highest number of conflicts (domestic and interstate) since the Second World War. Armed violence is the common denominator across most countries with the greatest humanitarian needs, such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Syria and Yemen.²

B. Conflicts are a leading cause of food crises, interlinked with many complex drivers.

- Food crises result from interconnected, mutually reinforcing drivers. Conflict and insecurity, economic shocks, health crises, weather extremes and the impact of climate change, and unstable political environments all contribute to food systems failures and profound human suffering.
- Together with weather extremes, conflict and insecurity are the most significant drivers of food crises, resulting in long-term consequences and spill-over effects across borders.³
- Violent conflict impacts every component of food systems, from access to natural resources to consumption. Concurrently, food insecurity may trigger social unrest, sometimes escalating into armed conflicts. Common pathways linking food insecurity and violence include environmental stress, climate-induced food shortages, competition for resources, and grievances stemming from food price fluctuations.⁴

1 GNAFC and FSIN. 2023. [Global Report on Food Crises 2023 \(GRFC 2023\)](#). Rome.

2 <https://www.prio.org/news/2736>

3 Ibid.

4 https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/2106_food_systems.pdf

C. Long-term development investments are inadequate and insufficiently localized in the most vulnerable countries, including many impacted by conflicts and food crises.

- Humanitarian responses are essential to save lives, but insufficient to sustainably reduce the frequency and impact of food crises. Addressing the drivers of food crises, building resilience and preventing humanitarian needs require longer-term investments.
- Overall, bilateral ODA towards least developed countries (LDCs) and Sub-Saharan Africa declined from 2021 to 2022.⁵
- Regarding food sectors, humanitarian assistance remains the most significant source of funding for countries facing protracted food crises: they have received on average 75 percent of the total humanitarian assistance to food sectors and 45 percent of the development assistance to food sectors between 2016 and 2021.⁶
- In 2021, humanitarian assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories followed an upward trend. Yet, food insecurity continues to escalate and increase in severity, outpacing humanitarian allocations. Development assistance shows a reduction in 2020 compared to the previous year, but still represents a significant proportion of support to food sectors.⁷ Also, out of the global food security humanitarian assistance, merely four percent is allocated towards emergency agricultural assistance.⁸
- Investments in peace and conflict prevention are steadily decreasing and represent a fraction of total ODA. In 2021, spending on peace across all ODA-recipient countries fell to 9.6% of total ODA. Additionally, peace ODA in fragile contexts fell to 10.8% of total ODA in 2021 – a 15-year record low in both the volume and share of overall ODA dedicated to peace.⁹
- The inflexibility of funding mechanisms prevents humanitarian organizations from promptly responding to emerging crises and adapting to evolving circumstances. The limited coordination across humanitarian, development and peace interventions further constrains the ability of actors to jointly address emerging needs and risks as well as the underlying drivers of crises.¹⁰
- The World Bank projects that by 2030, an estimated 59% of the extreme poor (those living on less than \$1.90 a day) will be in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence.¹¹ Without adequate sustained investments to address and prevent conflict, long-lasting progress toward resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems that can deliver food security and nutrition outcomes for all will remain unattainable.

5 <https://public.flourish.studio/story/1882344/>

6 GNAFC. 2022. [2022 Financing Flows and Food Crises Report](#). Rome.

7 Ibid.

8 GNAFC. 2023. [2023 Financing Flows and Food Crises Report](#). Rome.

9 <https://www.oecd.org/dac/peace-official-development-assistance.pdf>

10 <https://www.oecd.org/development/humanitarian-donors/docs/multiyearfunding.pdf>
<https://devinit.org/resources/global-humanitarian-assistance-report2023-/key-trends-humanitarian-need-funding2022-/>

11 [Supporting the Most Vulnerable: Scaling Up Support to Address Fragility, Conflict, and Violence](#). World Bank Group. 2023.

Our principles of action

For this agenda to move forward, the HDP Nexus Coalition will need to partner with other entities and stakeholders, across the following six principles:

- 1. Understanding the pivotal role of conflicts in global food insecurity:** The pathways linking conflict to food insecurity are complex and highly context-specific. They require a common multidimensional and contextual understanding of food systems and the drivers of conflict and peace across humanitarian, development, and peace actors.
- 2. The peace element:** By adopting at minimum context-specific and conflict-sensitive approaches in all cases, interventions can address some of the underlying drivers of food crises by reducing the risk of conflicts that would undermine community resilience and increase vulnerabilities. Food systems interventions should always be conflict-sensitive, and should aim to contribute to peace whenever possible.
- 3. Enhancing coordination and complementarity:** Collaboration and coordination between actors engaged in food systems interventions are crucial to maximize their impact. The HDP Nexus Coalition encourages stronger coherence and coordination across strategies, objectives, and interventions among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors, fostering complementarity and avoiding duplication of efforts. This ensures a more efficient and effective response to food security challenges.

By layering and sequencing, as appropriate, humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts, various interventions can address issues that perpetuate food insecurity and hinder sustainable development, such as conflict, poverty, social inequality, and environmental degradation, in a coordinated manner.

- 4. Leveraging existing resources and funding:** The HDP Nexus Coalition promotes the mobilization of the right kind of resources in an adequate and timely way for food systems interventions. This does not necessarily require more funding, but rather an adjustment in the allocation of existing resources, such as, for instance better access to climate finance for countries and food systems in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
- 5. Localization and community engagement:** The HDP Nexus Coalition recognizes the crucial role of local actors, including governments, civil society organizations, and communities, in shaping and implementing interventions. Engaging these stakeholders ensures that interventions are better informed, contextually appropriate, sustainable, and responsive to the needs and priorities of the affected communities. The Coalition will continue working towards ensuring a central place for local actors in global fora.
- 6. Long-term sustainable outcomes:** Food systems interventions that adopt an HDP Nexus approach are better positioned to achieve long-term sustainable outcomes. The HDP Nexus Coalition works toward improving coordination between humanitarian responses and longer-term development and peacebuilding efforts, to address the underlying causes of food insecurity and promote systemic change. This contributes to building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems that can withstand future shocks and support communities in the long run.



How does the HDP Nexus Coalition operate?

Leveraging its unique leadership and membership, the Coalition contributes to the achievement of these six principles through three member-led workstreams: Advocacy, Research, and Transformation/ Knowledge Management. They play a pivotal role in supporting the effective implementation of food system national pathways by positioning peace and conflict in global food system discussions, supporting the mobilization of research, data and analysis to inform policy and practice, and facilitating knowledge sharing building on countries' experiences. The Coalition also operates through, and in complementarity with, key partners such as the [Global Network Against Food Crises](#) and the [UN Food Systems Coordination Hub](#).



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