



BUILDING CONSENSUS AND COORDINATION ON THE CURRENT GLOBAL CRISIS RESPONSE INITIATIVES

The potential role of Donors and the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

A special high-level session

of the 2022 Annual General Assembly of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

Co-sponsored by the European Commission,
the International Fund for Agricultural Development and
the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

Wednesday 15 June 2022, from 13:30 hrs p.m. to 14:45 hrs p.m. (CET)

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities of our global food systems, pushing hundreds of million people into hunger. While these shocks have finally started to fade, an even greater food systems crisis has erupted, stemming from the recent conflict in Ukraine. The impacts on the planting and harvesting season of this extremely fertile region, as well as the war-associated sanctions, are causing massive spikes in the prices of food, fuel, and fertilizer. The disrupted grain flows are having dramatic short-term effects on agriculture and food systems, and without meaningful action, the medium and long-term consequences of this crisis have the potential to completely derail the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

During the 2008 global food price crisis, soaring costs of food and agriculture inputs drove up to 155 million people into poverty in the Global South¹. The price spikes were mostly related to long-term trends of reduced investments in agriculture, shifting dietary patterns and climate change, and the short-term impacts of increased agricultural commodities trading and demand for biofuels. These issues were, in many ways, also contributing to more recent rising prices. However, today's crisis holds the additional burden of a major war in one of the most agriculturally productive regions in the world.

Bilateral and multilateral donors and philanthropic foundations are facing these current challenges with vast experience and lessons learned from previous crisis responses. In 2008, there was extensive, yet fragmented and uncoordinated donor support for emergency measures to address food insecurity. While this was partly effective in tackling the immediate situation, the emphasis on these short-term measures meant that longer-term investments were ignored, which played a part in the lead-up to today's emergency. Indeed, the present crisis is far more severe than the last, with the possibility of dramatic increases in hunger and poverty in the short-term and severe consequences for economic growth and development in the medium- and long-term.

The current global response

The extraordinary nature of today's situation necessitates greater global cooperation than ever before. Multilateralism is key to avoiding the mistakes of crises past, such as the fragmentation, lack of coordination, and short-term focus of donors in 2008. Multilateralism can foster coherence among donor efforts, prevent overlapping or contradicting initiatives, and ensure that long-term food systems resilience is prioritized. With multilateral communication and coordination, effective emergency measures can prevent immediate hunger, resilience can be built to prevent these food system shocks from causing disastrous effects in the future.

Numerous initiatives have been implemented in response to the Ukraine war, and its implications on food systems, including the G7 Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS), the UN Global Crisis Response Group (UNGCRG), the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM), the International Finance Institution Action Plan to Address Food

¹ Source: World Bank data.

Insecurity, the Global Food Security Call to Action, and the African Emergency Food Production Facility. While such efforts are essential in counteracting rising food insecurity and livelihood destruction, it is fundamental that they are aligned with existing mechanisms to enhance efficiency and avoid overlap and contradiction. Furthermore, numerous calls to action can lead to additional complexity and investment fragmentation, with the risk of failing to mobilize additional investment in food systems beyond traditional sources of funding.

Coherent and coordinated action is paramount to ensure that the numerous newly developed crisis response initiatives are effective in counteracting the effects of today's emergency, in a compact and harmonized manner. The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) and its members are well-positioned to foster this coherence among stakeholders, both within the donor community and beyond, particularly through the provision of policy advice and knowledge and experience sharing, to enable such coherence.

The 2022 Annual General Assembly special session

The Donor Platform's 2022 Annual General Assembly (AGA) will be held on 14 and 15 June 2022 at IFAD headquarters in Rome, Italy, under the theme "Implementing National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation to Accelerate Progress Towards the SDGs in Times of Crisis and Conflict". The AGA sessions will focus on how donor coordination and alignment can be targeted to support food systems transformation and the achievement of the SDGs, in a context where agricultural value chains and food production are being severely hampered globally by climate change, the COVID pandemic, increased cost of inputs, and several conflicts, including the recent war in Ukraine.

In this extraordinary situation, the AGA will include a special high-level session to provide a discussion space for current international initiatives working to support food security during the crisis. The high-level panel conversation will focus on the alliance of mechanisms, risk assessments, and the role of donor architecture for coordination.

This special session, on "Building Consensus and Coordination on the Current Global Crisis Response Initiatives" is called to discuss:

1. How can the current donors' crisis response initiatives include both the necessary emergency measures to prevent immediate hunger and poverty, while keeping substantial focus on the medium- and long-term goal of resilience in food systems?
2. How can donors ensure that their initiatives are sufficient to address the continuously increasing disruption of food, fuel, and fertilizer flows, and the resulting negative impacts on food security?
3. How can donors ensure the coordination and harmonization required to amplify the objectives and results of their various initiatives?
4. How can mechanisms such as the Global Donor Platform, along with its members and other stakeholders, ensure that dialogue and consensus-building are promoted and used to inform other forums, such as the G7, G20 and others?

Panel composition

1. **Jim Barnhart**, Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID
2. **Beth Dunford**, Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development, African Development Bank (AfDB)
3. **Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Osorio**, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and Ambassador at Large for Global Food Security, Spain
4. **Celine Jurgensen**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative for France to the United Nations agencies in Rome
5. **Sebastian Lesch**, Head of Division, Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains, International Agricultural Policy, Agriculture, Rural Development, Innovation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
6. **David Nabarro**, UN Global Crisis Response Group, Food workstream co-lead and Strategic Director of 4SD
7. **Satu Santala**, Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)