



CALL FOR ACTION

WORLD FOOD DAY 2018 "ZERO HUNGER"

World Food Day is a day of action against hunger.

Founded in 1945 to unite all nations in the fight against hunger, FAO celebrates its birthday on the 16th of October, through a global celebration known as World Food Day. World Food Day promotes worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all. The focus of the day is that food is a basic and fundamental human right. The World Food Day 2018 focus is on SDG 2 - *Zero Hunger*. On the occasion of this World Food Day, FIMARC is calling along with FAO on countries and other stakeholders to implement concrete initiatives to achieve the target of Zero Hunger.

What is Hunger?

Looking back at history, hunger has always existed, and always for the same reasons. Poverty is one of the main causes of hunger. If you are poor, you can't afford nutritious food. This makes it difficult to work or earn a living and often means that people remain in a poverty trap. In a world which produces enough food for everyone, one person in nine suffers from chronic hunger. A 2017 FAO report found more than 815 million people suffered from chronic undernourishment in 2016, up 38 million from 2015. Well over half of them live in countries affected by conflict. Some 155 million children under five are stunted. One child dies every twelve seconds from hunger. At the same time, 1.9 billion people are overweight, 600 million of which are obese, increasing their risk of disease and death. In the past year alone, with 20 million people at risk of famine in four countries - Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.

Conflicts disrupt farming and food production. Millions of people are often forced to flee their homes, and then they find themselves deprived of access to sufficient food. The vast majority of hungry people in the world live in countries affected by conflicts. Wars or uprisings can also be a direct consequence of hunger: it's natural to explode with anger when access to food becomes impossible. Food can therefore be a powerful tool in bringing peace to the world.

Pollution has affected the climate causing an increase in extreme weather events – such as floods, tropical storms and long periods of drought. Poor farmers, fishermen, pastoralists and forest dwellers suffer most during and after a natural disaster – they don't have enough to eat and they are often forced to leave their homes. Rising temperatures as a result of climate change also affect the environment dramatically and can turn healthy soil dry and infertile.

Poverty, war, and natural disasters particularly affect the less wealthy areas of the world today. But even in wealthy, industrialised countries there are large groups of people living in poverty, unable to feed themselves properly. They often live in the same neighbourhoods as overweight or obese people. Overeating and irresponsible consumption of unhealthy junk food are a big part of the hunger problem causing an increased number of deaths every year. 1.9 billion people, which is more than a quarter of the world's population, are overweight. 600 million of these are obese and adult obesity is rising everywhere at an accelerated pace. The production and waste of huge quantities of food is contributing to pollution, and affecting people's health everywhere. Malnutrition, therefore, is a global issue: it concerns us all, no matter where we live.

Economic growth is often the key to help countries out of hunger. Sadly though, when not controlled and fair, it can widen the gap between rich and poor, generating further hunger, conflict and tension. Growth must include vulnerable people and consider society as a whole.

SDGs

The SDGs are a guide for governments to develop policies and actions so that they can end hunger and poverty, fight inequality and injustice, tackle climate change and achieve sustainable development (a solution that lasts). Achieving Zero Hunger also means that we can achieve many other goals – without first providing healthy food for all, you can't achieve education or good health.

What is Zero Hunger?

ZERO HUNGER is the second of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, supported by all UN organizations *The Zero Hunger mission aims to reduce that staggering figure down to ZERO. Brazil was the first country to take the challenge in 2003 when the government helped millions of people out of poverty and hunger.* The Zero Hunger Goal (#Zero Hunger) is at the heart of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030. But we won't make it unless everybody makes an effort.

. 8 Reasons Why Zero Hunger Changes the World

1. Zero hunger could save the lives of **3.1 million children a year**
2. Well-nourished mothers have **healthier babies** with stronger immune systems
3. Ending child undernutrition could increase a developing country's **GDP by 16.5 percent**
4. A dollar invested in hunger prevention could return **between \$15 and \$139 in benefits**
5. Proper nutrition early in life could mean **46 percent more in lifetime earnings**
6. Eliminating iron deficiency in a population could **boost workplace productivity by 20 percent**
7. Ending nutrition-related child mortality could **increase a workforce by 9.4 percent**
8. Zero hunger can help build a **safer, more prosperous world** for everyone

Four Key areas to be addressed to achieve Zero Hunger

1. Food security: to guarantee access to healthy food for everyone, every day. Our Earth is capable of feeding us all: it's down to human beings to distribute food fairly, leaving no one empty-handed!

2. Good nutrition: to make sure that people get all the nutrients they need to live well, and encourage responsible, environmentally-friendly eating habits. This will restore the balance between those who eat too much or badly, and those who don't get enough food.

3. Sustainable agriculture: the use of fields, forests, oceans, and all natural resources essential for food production, without damaging the planet. Sustainable, because food production has to respect the environment, with all the people and animals who live in it or our resources will not last!

4. Poverty eradication: since poverty is often the direct cause of malnutrition, even in countries where food is available in supermarkets. People who can't afford healthy food, or food in general, tend to get ill more easily. Basically, a healthy lifestyle is the result of social and economic progress!

.Key Actors to Achieve Zero Hunger

1. Small family farmers

Around 90% of farms in the world are family-owned. This means that behind each farm there's a mum, a dad, sometimes other relatives, and children who all work together to produce food for the family and for the rural community they belong to. These farms play an impressive role in the mission to reach Zero Hunger. Small farmers need to preserve the Earth's natural resources, such as soil and water, and improve techniques for harvesting, food storage, packing or transport to cut down on food loss. We are not only talking about farmers in the fields but also communities living off forestry, fishery, and pastoralism.

2. Governments and political leaders

Political Leaders have a key role in the fight against poverty and hunger. Their focus on agriculture, climate change, job creation, and their increased protection of the more vulnerable can make a difference both in the short and in the long term. Governments need to monitor the market so that prices are fair for small farmers too. They should make sure that large corporations respect and protect the rights of local people when buying or leasing large quantities of land. And they also need to promote healthy eating, invest more in research, and focus on developing rural areas.

3. Private sector

Companies and enterprises of all sizes that work not only in agriculture but also in services related to it, like insurance, marketing, communication and finance can work with FAO to give poorer farming families access to funds so they can improve their farms and earn more.

The rural connection

The global goal to achieve Zero Hunger in 2030 cannot be reached without addressing the connections between food security and rural development. Eighty percent of the world's poor live in rural areas where people depend on agriculture, fisheries or forestry for a living.

This World Food Day is an occasion to focus our attention for the realization of Zero Hunger World. Run up to the World Food day 2018, I would like to call upon all our member movements around the world to take up concrete actions in your movements in relation to the theme of the year. I thank all the movements that were involved in various actions last year

Some proposal of actions in line with the theme of the World Food Day 2018 are mentioned below but each movement can organise activities based on their own reality.

- Organise a campaign activity to raise awareness among the public on Zero Hunger
- Organise sessions with a view to raise the debate on Zero Hunger
- Organise meetings with politicians and local self-governments to demand concrete actions and initiatives for the realization of Zero Hunger in respective territories
- Share the best practices and alternatives that target to achieve Zero Hunger among the members of our grass root groups
- Organise Corner meetings ,press conference , press release or demonstrations on the topic to raise the awareness of the society
- Organise one day volunteer work to save money and to support hunger eradication projects in your own places or send to the FIMARC World Food Day fund to support other people who are in need around the world
- Make any solidarity action like fasting to collect money to support the needy or to provide one nutritious meal to the hunger
- Make awareness raising activities against food waste and harvest loss
- Organise Traditional Cooking completions to raise awareness on Sustainable consumption
- Take actions to avoid food waste :A quarter of the food lost or wasted each day would be enough to feed the hungry people in the world.
- Mix up your diet: Producing meat uses up a lot more of our planet's natural resources, especially water, than producing plants or pulses. Try to make one meal a week an all-veggie one
- Buy local : Shop from local farmers whenever you can and support local economic growth It means less emissions, less pollution, healthier world, happier farmers.

During this world food day of 2018, FIMARC requests all its member movements to have deep reflections, actions for the progressive realisation of Zero Hunger all over the world and to Lobby for the policies that support sustainable production and consumption and We urge all the members to organise a common action day to raise awareness on this topic and send us the news about your activities.

Wish you all the best for your world food day actions of 2018
George Dixon Fernandez
Secretary General
ASSESE, 16/09/2018
