



*American Model United Nations*  
**WFP**

# Report to the The General Assembly on Humanitarian Access and its Implications

## CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Heading</u>	<u>Page</u>
	Executive Summary	3
I.	Consideration of Humanitarian Access and its Implications for the World Food Programme	4
	A. Deliberations	4
	1. The Implications of Security Issues as it Pertains to the Ability of the Ability of the World Food Programme to Gain Humanitarian Access	4
	2. The Implications of Efficient, Expedient, and Effective Delivery as it Pertains to the Ability of the Ability of the World Food Programme to Gain Humanitarian Access	5
	B. Recommendations for action by the General Assembly	9
II.	Adoption of the report	10

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The United Nations World Food Programme is pleased to present the report on the topic of Humanitarian Access and its Implications for the World Food Programme. During our sessions many important issues were discussed and the Programme worked to reach consensus on this topic.

The four major subtopics within the issue of humanitarian access and its implications for the WFP are sovereignty, security, infrastructure, and timeliness of delivery.

The committee as a whole deems that all persons have the right to free access to food aid and other essential services even in the event of conflict, while at the same time respecting state sovereignty. In addition the World Food Programme believes that humanitarian aid delivered to at risk populations should be assured. The WFP urges the General Assembly Third Committee to create a “vessel” to ensure the safety of the workers and the food deliveries.

We must recognize as an international community the urgency of helping states affected by all types of crisis. We recognize that humanitarian access is essential to uphold the general principals in the Geneva Convention protocols. Many states echoed the need for infrastructure specifically calling for collaborative efforts between local, national and regional governments with Non-Governmental Organizations and the WFP.

The basic rules outlined in “The Guiding Principles for Humanitarian Principles” work states that “humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality.” The right to access food and water should not be manipulated on the grounds of political will. This body has voiced anxiety regarding refugee camps and internally displaced persons (IDP’s), which are facing limited access to food and water. This body also recognizes the necessity to develop effective public distribution systems to facilitate the movement of food aid once it is within areas of conflict. Finally, this body as a whole is deeply concerned about the erratic funding for initiatives such as United Nations Humanitarian Air Services.

The body expresses deep concern that many actors involved in the delivery of humanitarian aid and that there are vaguely defined roles for each actor. The body strongly suggests a structured framework to define these roles more precisely as to avoid overlaps and gaps in humanitarian aid. This is closely related to the necessity for coordinated efforts between these actors to deliver aid in an efficient, expedient, and effective manner.

The body recognizes that every situation for humanitarian aid is individual in its needs and requires adaptability from the actors involved in these efforts. Additionally, each crisis has unique needs for delivery as a result of varying infrastructures. The body agrees that using various types of communication technologies in times of crises have been effective for overcoming the range of topographical, political, and social barriers. Taking this into account, the WFP urges the United Nations General Assembly as a whole to consider these evaluations when implementing response programs where humanitarian aid is needed.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **Consideration of Humanitarian Access and its Implications for the World Food Programme**

At its meetings on 21 November 2009 and 22 November 2009, the Programme considered Humanitarian Access and its Implications on the World Food Programme. For its considerations of this item, the Commission took the following documents into consideration:

- (a) The Guiding Principles of Humanitarian Principles
- (b) Full Report of the Thematic Evaluation of Recurring Challenges in the Provision of Food Assistance in Complex Emergencies
- (c) Special Operation SO 10734.0: Provision of Safe, Efficient and Sufficient Air Transport Services to the Humanitarian Community in Niger and Within the Region
- (d) Geneva Conventions
- (e) GA Resolutions 46/182, 61/134, 63/139, 62/94

#### **A. Deliberations**

##### **1. The Implications of Security Issues as it Pertains to the Ability of the World Food Programme to Gain Humanitarian Access**

Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Mauritius, Afghanistan, Somalia, Spain, Cameroon, Cuba, Italy, and Sudan recognize that unobstructed access is a necessary precondition for the World Food Program (WFP) to be able to provide emergency food aid during times of crisis. It is therefore also important to address that one of these obstructions is armed conflict. The Geneva Convention and its Protocols state that free access to food and other essential services should be granted if conflict blocks a civilian's ability to obtain the aid that they have been unable to reach. Unfortunately, in the past there have been instances where access has not been granted in times of conflict. The WFP must first ensure the safety of its own emergency food providers before adding casualties to an armed conflict.

The Guiding Principles for Humanitarian Principles to direct the international humanitarian work state that "humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality and that sovereignty, territorial integrity," and that "national unity of states must be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations." The glaring issue is that violent armed militias or fringe groups do not adhere to these principles.

There was discussion involving the security of the food itself and the people once they

have obtained the food. There have been instances involving the theft of the aid itself, in which the people are subjected to the will of those actors actually involved in the armed conflict. We invite the WFP to create new manners of distribution to minimize the harm done to those delivering the aid, to those receiving the aid, and to the aid itself. Thus we recommend the delivery of food and supplies be carried out in a more unorthodox manner such as frequent distributions carried out on a weekly basis. If distribution is carried out in this effort, it is anticipated that there would be a minimal amount of attack from warring parties upon those giving the aid and those receiving the aid.

The body recognizes that each crisis is unique. The delivery of humanitarian aid must take into account the topographical, social, and political boundaries of the situation. In one example, Niger cited that Special Operation 10734's had various accomplishments. Those accomplishments include cooperation with other states by using charter planes to distribute aid and services safely in conflict. It is important to note that Niger's political instability encouraged it to use an alternative, non-traditional way of delivering aid. Establishing this framework also addresses the concern and need of timely distribution of food aid. The body established that timeliness should be focused on both preemptive measures as well as rapid response during times of crises.

Jamaica and Cote d'Ivoire suggested that active fighting or the inability to secure the safety of relief workers, deliberate denial by the state or other political actors, physical blockages such as road blocks, and logistical challenges are all factors that can prevent the WFP from delivering aid. This body stands behind the relief workers and would like to ensure their safety first.

## **2. The Implications of Efficient, Expedient, and Effective Delivery as it Pertains to the Ability of the World Food Programme to Gain Humanitarian Access**

One of the issues brought up by the body was assessment of risk, probability, and susceptibility in regards to natural disaster and conflict. Member States addressed this by suggesting the establishment of a structured framework that can cater to the specific needs of individual states. There are many organizations and actors involved in delivering humanitarian aid when individual crises occur. Some of these actors include: the Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (OCHA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the WFP, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the receiving state's government. Brazil and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, amongst various other states, specifically expressed deep concern about the vaguely defined roles of the actors involved in securing humanitarian access. Member States cannot stress enough the importance of clearly defining roles through communication, cooperation, and collaboration between these entities. This is encouraged to ensure that there are no gaps or overlaps in services when securing humanitarian aid. A structured framework would provide a specific system for those involved in the delivery of aid. It is hoped that this system would allocate specific roles for every actor involved in the giving of humanitarian aid, particularly when a crisis strikes, and swift and effective action is needed. For example, the flooding crisis in Sri Lanka was successfully handled by local NGO workers and WFP offices. The success is attributed to the coordination between the

two bodies, which put their labor and resources on the ground and in the camps. The Member States found this as an example of what is a successful model for humanitarian access and structural organization in times of natural crises.

In terms of infrastructure, Mauritania strongly urged Member States to find new solutions that are specific to the country's needs. In recent news, the WFP sent text messages to Iraqi refugees to send information about food rations. In another example, Somalia noted use of radio broadcasting to deliver similar information. The body strongly agrees that using communication technologies unique to the region is yet another method of disseminating information in order to ensure timeliness and ease of distribution.

This body agrees that the United Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination (UNDAC) is a body that has the capability to be part of the structured framework. UNDAC is responsible for the very first assessments of the situations on the ground and is a major organ that is involved in surveillance during crises. WFP would like to see UNDAC be a significant part of the structured framework suggested.

El Salvador stresses the importance of a continued dedication to providing aid to areas inflicted by natural disasters; a collaborative effort is required to promote governmental transparency and improved access to aid in hard-to-reach areas, both immediately following disaster and in the weeks and months when populations are still in need of help in rebuilding the structures necessary to sustain life.

The body as a whole discussed the importance of assessment and surveillance before, during, and after a conflict or disaster. Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, and Cuba strongly encouraged information-sharing amongst the public and private groups involved in humanitarian aid relief. Information-sharing reaffirms the organization of the structural framework mentioned previously and also aids in the delegation of specific tasks to each actor involved in delivering the aid.

Italy, El Salvador, and Bangladesh suggested that assessment of needs after an incidence has occurred is as important as dealing with the conflict as it happens. Regular communication between the government where the aid is being delivered and the actors involved in humanitarian aid will encourage trust between the two parties as these NGOs and agencies perform regular follow-ups.

The Republic of Zimbabwe comprehends the significance of providing food aid, in that our state, in the aftermath of the government-sanctioned seizure of commercial farms, compounded by a regional drought, were at the mercy of the international community. Agricultural production plummeted and tens of thousands of newly unemployed farm workers were displaced in our state. While other states in the region recovered from the drought, the Republic of Zimbabwe's economy continued to contract and inflation soared under destructive government policies. Food access and availability remains difficult for Zimbabweans as basic food and non-food necessities become increasingly scarce or non-existent in the market, particularly in urban areas. It is imperative for the international community to embrace the WFP to improve its operational model to better serve areas

where humanitarian access has become limited because of governmental policies. We must recognize as an international community the urgency of helping states affected by all types of crises.

Rwanda supports the humanitarian access defined by the United Nations. We recognize that humanitarian access is essential in order to maintain the rights and humanitarian relief to people in crisis.

Liberia's road networks have been heavily hampered by torrential rainfall, which has made many dirt roads incredibly challenging to navigate or impassible for extended periods of time. This is also evident in other African nations like Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire. Liberia proposes a road network to be maintained through collaborative efforts; including, but not limited to: national and local governments, NGO's, and the WFP. This will allow cheap, unhampered land transportation of critical supplies to nations within Africa.

Sudan feels that sufficient aid should be delivered to South Sudan's road repair and mine clearance programs in order to clear arable land. Sudan feels as if this is an extremely pressing issue for itself as well as for the international community. Rwanda agrees that mine clearance is a very important issue.

The delegation of Nigeria feels that it is important for there to be continued international pressure on countries who withhold food and water from its citizens as political tools. Nigeria also feels that countries should work toward allowing more World Food Programme workers into countries with great need.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan believes that distribution of food aid to refugee camps as well as to developed and less developed countries, that do not have the agricultural means to grow their own food, should be heavily considered.

Iraq calls upon all member states to address the necessity in developing effective public distribution systems in countries to facilitate the movement of food aid once it is within countries in need of humanitarian aid. Better registration techniques must be implemented in order for the humanitarian aid to reach those in dire need. This is key in countries that are affected by recent conflict and have a large number of internally displaced peoples.

Syria encourages the improvement of infrastructure to better ensure that those who need aid receive that aid. Syria has in place a voucher program for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). However, though it has seen various successes, Syria is concerned with problems of infrastructure that prevent access to humanitarian aid for some who are unable to reach the aid or are unable to have the aid delivered to them.

In cases where civil war and conflict are of concern, Mozambique urges the needs of IDPs are a priority. Mozambique suggests immediate provision of food aid to IDPs.

Pakistan is concerned with the security of places that support aid. Pakistan desires stricter

security of institutions that provide aid due to the bombing of the World Food Programme in Pakistan in early October 2009.

Egypt encourages continued support for the Lifeline Gaza program and recommends an increase of funding and international support. Egypt also recognizes the variety of humanitarian crises and recommends an international standard set of procedures to coordinate humanitarian assistance efforts.

The delegation of Chad is deeply concerned about the erratic funding circumstances that plague the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). Many areas in African nations that serve as refugee camps are remote or inaccessible by land due to varying weather conditions that render land transport impossible during certain times of year. Owing to the countries' dependence on air-transport as a vital need to access hunger-afflicted populations, Chad, along with Algeria, Liberia, Egypt, Cameroon, Namibia, and Niger made an urgent call to the international community as well as the private sector to increase financial contributions and hopefully assure a more regular flow of funding to the UNHAS.

South Africa applauds the efforts of the WFP, and urges all nations of the international community to continue in their efforts, even during this time of worldwide economic crisis. Additionally, South Africa would like to localize access to food across the continent of Africa by expanding Humanitarian Response Depots and beginning funding for the Air Drop Initiative.

The Latin American bloc and other Member States reporting on humanitarian access and its implications for the World Food Programme, reached a consensus on a draft resolution covering multiple areas including, but not limited to: Education of civilians and farmers on disaster preparedness, emphasizing the priority of investigating additional funds to support these projects, and the establishment of national disaster response plans. After much deliberation, there was not sufficient time to bring the draft resolution to the floor.

The Republic of Ecuador firmly believes in multilateral regionally used humanitarian access centers and internal government structures that work closely with humanitarian aid transition.

Mexico and Thailand are mainly concerned with sovereignty and believe that the extent of interference from an external body should be limited when creating processes to implement humanitarian access in crisis areas.

Namibia and Bolivia emphasize the need to develop and have prepared varied access strategies to reach individuals during and after natural disaster emergencies of all kinds. We stress the importance of collaboration between all organizations in attempts to bring aid to all.

Brazil congratulates the efforts of the WFP in targeting the recipients of food aid, we encourage and call for continued registration of all recipients of humanitarian relief, and



admonish the WFP to end “blanket distribution” of food aid.

## **B. Recommendations for action by the General Assembly**

Active fighting or the inability to secure the safety of relief workers, the deliberate denial by the state or other political actors, physical blockages, such as road blocks or flooding, and logistical challenges are all factors that can prevent the WFP from delivering aid. This body stands behind the relief workers and would like to ensure their safety. The WFP would strongly recommend the General Assembly Third Committee to investigate the possibility of creating a vessel to insure the safety of the WFP workers and allocated resources.

World Food Programme calls upon Member States to sign and ratify a Declaration of Humanitarian Access to Emergency Areas. This declaration will allow Member States to support and secure the free and safe movement of humanitarian agencies and personnel to deliver relief services, reaching civilians who are trapped, unable to move, or are otherwise detained due to armed conflict, natural disasters or other emergency situations. The declaration will provide enforcement mechanisms to ensure adequate financing as well as the security and safety of relief workers. The Declaration of Humanitarian Access to Emergency Areas also recognizes the WFP Executive Board core principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality as the framework for its humanitarian operations. Furthermore, Brazil and Argentina recommend expanding the roles of the existing Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Humanitarian Coordinator to include a position of Chief Negotiator (CN) between NGOs, MNCs, and the state in crisis. It would be the duty of the CN to stabilize the relationship between the host state and the relief workers, ensuring their safety.

## **Chapter II**

This report was adopted by consensus by the World Food Programme on Nov 23 2009.