

WFP(World Food Program):

1.Rearranging the Existing Framework for the Supply of Food Aid

The WFP defines itself as the “food aid arm of the United Nations System.” Its mission is to eliminate the need for food aid. In particular it focuses on three areas of aid, development aid, emergency aid, and food security. The WFP definition of food aid includes direct concessional transfers of food and money given for the procurement of food. The UN defines food security as “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.” While the WFP is the primary channel for food aid, it has not been able to fully handle current food crises around the world, and progress in combating hunger is far behind where it needs to be. While there have been major advances in combating hunger, there are still major challenges that need to be handled in combating world hunger and providing effective emergency aid. The millennium development goal of halving hunger for

2015 is within reach, if appropriate efforts are immediately stepped up. However there is still room to improve. There are still 805 million chronically undernourished, far behind the World Food Summit (WFS) target. Some regions are doing much worse than others, with the state of affairs in Sub Saharan Africa particularly dismal. The imbalance in progress is an indicator that changes in the way food aid is distributed may need to be made. There are several regions with food emergencies that have lasted several years. The protracted state of emergency is not only a threat to the short-term prosperity of the region but also the long term prosperity. It is necessary for the international community to determine ways to ensure that food emergencies are handled in a manner that shortens the length of the emergency, as current methods of food aid may not be the most effective ways of handling emergencies, and should likely be reconsidered. There have also been major budget shortfalls that have led to the WFP being unable to provide food in areas that need it. One particular example is Syria food aid which had to be cut to 60% due to a major funding shortfall in October 2014, and had to be closed in December. Methods of handling such budget shortfalls are sorely needed.

2.Responding to Food Insecurity in Yemen

Yemen faces its biggest crisis in decades in the deteriorating Aden governorate, and in July 2015, the United Nations (UN) declared the situation in Yemen a humanitarian emergency that is more complex than those in Iraq, South Sudan, and Syria. A Saudi-led coalition began launching an air campaign to reinstate Yemen’s internationally recognized government after the Houthis, a Zaydi Shia movement backed by Iran, captured the capital of Sana’a. In March 2015, they advanced towards the Gulf of Aden. Amidst this uprising against the long-term president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, developments to derail the new political transition mounted while Al- Qaida continued to increase havoc during factional fighting by franchising new opportunities to capture territory. Yemen is considered the Arab world’s poorest state with a poverty rate of more than 50%. A person is considered “food secure when they have available access at all times to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.” The UN has estimated that nearly 13 million Yemenis do not have consistent access to adequate food. Moreover, the country faces food and fuel shortages, relying on imports for both; consequently it imports more than 80% of its food, including 90% of staples such as wheat and 100% its rice. Yet, those who urgently need food assistance are inaccessible because of the lack of immediate routes and access points. Such inaccessibility is increasing the possibility of famine and the population is suffering as a result, particularly women and children as well as marginalized groups like internally displaced persons and unskilled laborers. The scarcity of staple foods and essential commodities is also greatly affecting the

Yemeni population. Extremely volatile food prices worsen the condition of developing countries as they are unable to combat poverty and hunger, especially those in the midst of a conflict. During this intensified conflict, trickle down effects are being witnessed where violence, fuel shortage, and infrastructure damages are preventing day to day commerce and disrupting livelihoods; the markets, agricultural sector, fisheries, imports and exports businesses, are all commercial activities deeply affected. Consequently, incomes are lowering and food insecurity is increasing. Since the beginning of the conflict, the UN World Food Program (WFP) has reached nearly 2.5 million people. Now the goal is to reach 6 million people by mid-2016. Before falling into a deeper crisis, humanitarian organizations are seeking to move freely and safely to provide assistance to reach all those in need. To briefly facilitate relief supply delivery, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a pause in hostilities. But as the conflict continues, deterioration is likely to endure unless immediate humanitarian assistance, and in particular food assistance, is provided to the population with more being done to sustain food supplies and the means necessary to access them.