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Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 17 September 2024
(OR. en)

13469/24

COHAFA 59
DEVGEN 128
ALIM 10
RELEX 1120
INTER-REP 92

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	12 September 2024
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Food security - presentation by Action Contre la Faim

Following the meeting of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) of 12 September 2024, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by Action Contre la Faim (ACF)[1][2].

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[1] Identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 272646820681-30.

[2] This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to **save lives and eradicate hunger through the prevention, detection, and treatment of malnutrition, in particular during and after emergency situations caused by conflicts and natural disasters**. Today, Action Against Hunger is a major player in the fight against hunger in the world. Structured in an international network, our organisation provides a coordinated response in more then 50 countries. Since the reasons for hunger are plural, our response is multi-sectoral.

OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE

OUR KEY FIGURES

45
YEARS OF EXISTANCE

21M
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED IN 2023

56
COUNTRIES OF OPERATION IN 2023

4
HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES: HUMANITY, NEUTRALITY, IMPARTIALITY, INDEPENDENCE

KEY FACTS: IN 2023

2.83 BILLION PEOPLE

particularly women and girls – were unable to afford healthy diets, and **733 million people suffered from hunge**r. *(SOFI 2024)*

148 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER 5

were estimated globally to be affected by stunting – a result of chronic malnutrition – and **45 million children were suffering from wasting** – a result of acute malnutrition. *(SOFI 2024)*

281.6 MILLION PEOPLE

or 21.5 percent of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity in **59 food-crisis countries/territories**. *(GRFC2024)*

571 MILLION WOMEN

are affected by anemia globally. The prevalence of **anemia among women aged 15 to 49 has risen**, now affecting 29.9% of this population. *(SOFI 2024)*

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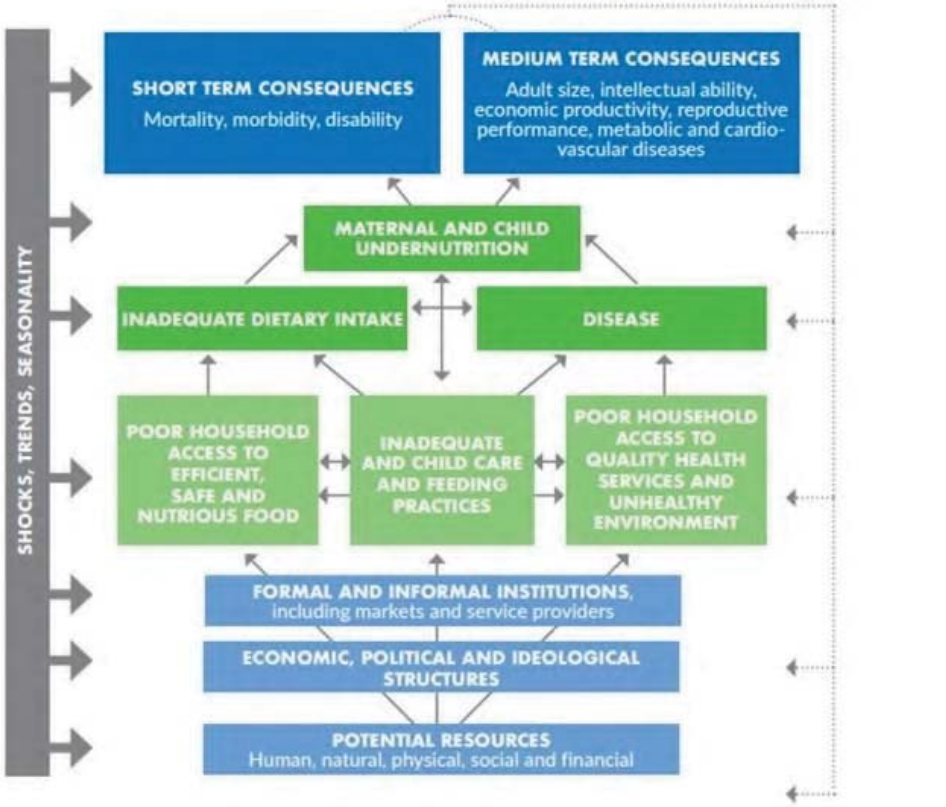
CONCEPTS and FRAMEWORKS for ACTION

*"**Food and nutrition security** exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food, which is consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, **and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services, and care, allowing for a healthy and active life**."*

(UN Standing Committee on Nutrition)

FIGURE 3 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF MALNUTRITION



Source: Ending Malnutrition by 2020, draft report to ACC, SCN, March 1999

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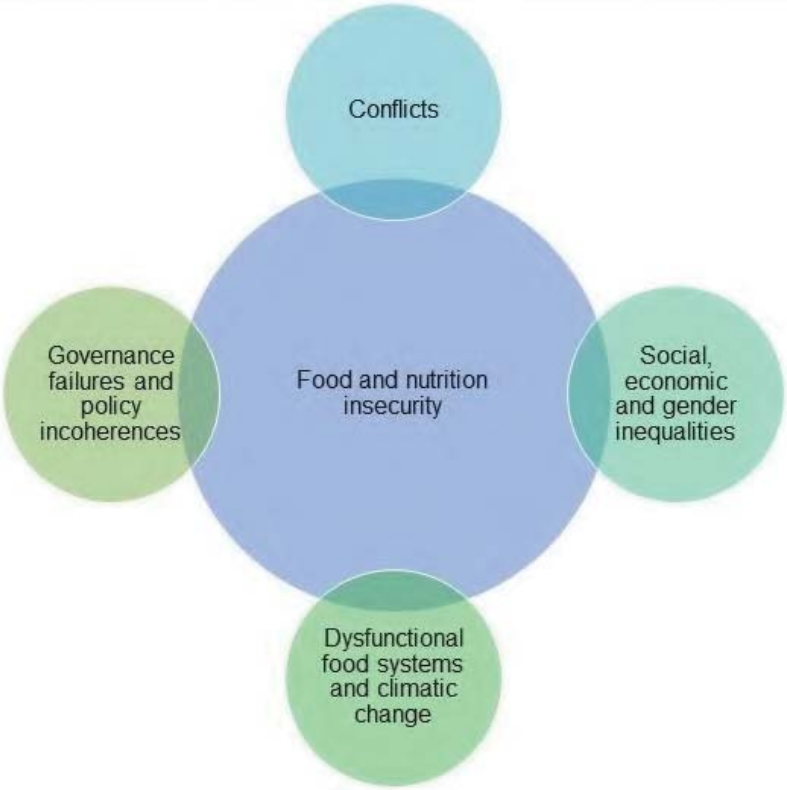
To tackle the root causes of food and nutrition insecurity…



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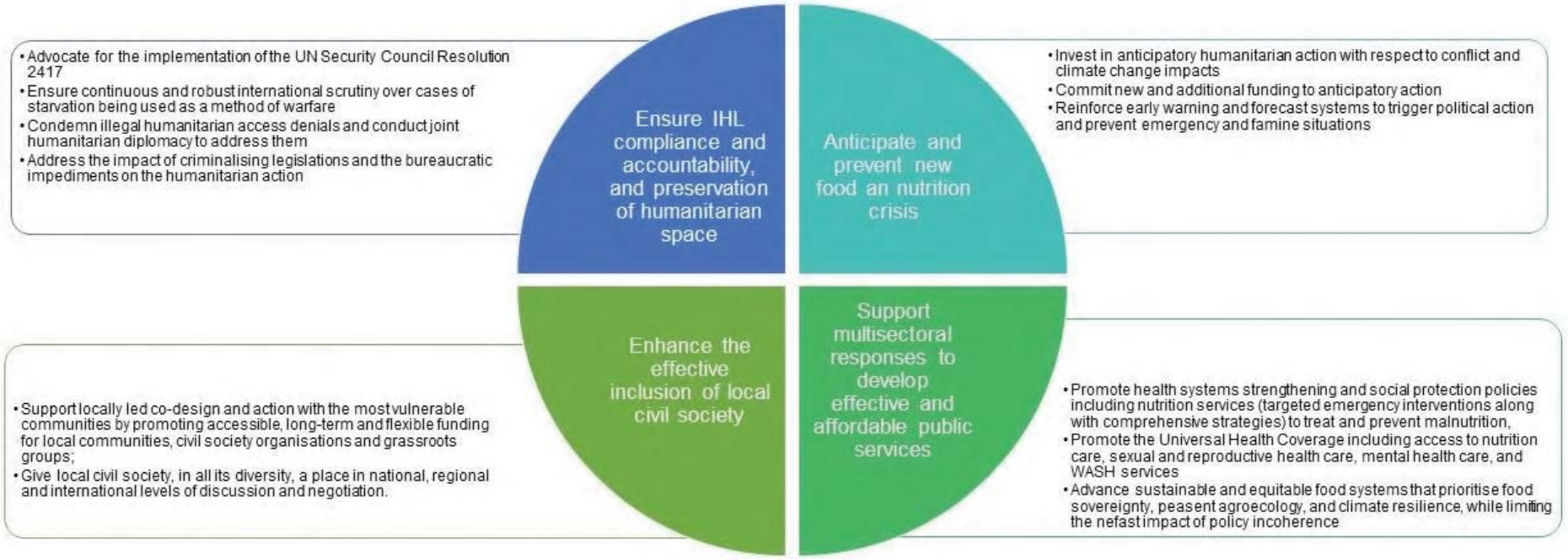
...we need a coordinated and inclusive response



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Our Recommendations

Key Political Preconditions for Combating Food and Nutrition Insecurity

- **Prioritise Food and Nutrition Security in EU International Cooperation:** Advocate for a central focus in the EU's global partnerships and international cooperation agenda to support access to social protection systems and access to basic services.
- **Commit to Long-Term and Transformative Food and Nutrition Policies:** Shift the approach from unequal food systems towards just, sustainable,resilient, and nutrition-sensitive food systems centered on peasant agroecology
- **Renew and Update the EU Nutrition Action Plan:** Advocate for the renewal of the EU action plan for nutrition, creating a robust framework to implement a multisectoral and nexus approach to nutrition and food security in partner countries.
- **Support Integration of Nutrition Goals in National Development Strategies:** Encourage and assist partner countries in embedding nutrition targets and actions within their national and regional development and sectoral strategies
- **Promote transparent, accountable, coherent, and inclusive policies:** Strengthen effective consultative spaces and robust accountable mechanisms in food governance mechanisms, including including youth, women-led and women's rights organisations, and those representing marginalized communities and support policies against shrinking civil space

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Our Recommendations

Enhancing EU Humanitarian Diplomacy to safeguard a principled humanitarian space

- **Support a European Humanitarian Diplomacy Strategy:** Develop and implement a coherent and coordinated approach to European diplomacy to promote humanitarian access and IHL compliance, the protection of civilians and prevent the use of violence against food security
- **Promote IHL compliance to prevent the use the starvation as a method of warfare:** Advocate for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2417 and support enhanced compliance and strengthened accountability mechanisms in case of violations, and foster political solutions to conflicts that feed hunger
- **Protect Unimpeded Humanitarian Access and Humanitarian Space:** Support the Humanitarian Call for Action to facilitate collective and consistent commitment, and facilitate unobstructed humanitarian access by addressing the impact of bureaucratic and administrative impediments and promoting humanitarian exemption against criminalising legislations in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2664

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Our Recommendations

Unlocking Critical Funding for Food and Nutrition Security

- **Redirect ODA to Strengthen Basic Services in Fragile Contexts**: Prioritize Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards delivering public services and social protection systems in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and fragile regions.
- **Scale Up Support to Anticipatory Action**: Support all components of AA – early warning system, early action protocols and operations, an prefunding allocation – based on locally-led design and action with communities
- **Boost Nutrition-Focused Funding**: Advocate for increased investments in both nutrition specific and sensitive initiatives, including by setting benchmarks for sectoral spending in upcoming external action instruments to include significant nutrition objectives.
- **Improve the Application of the Nutrition Policy Marker**: as a reporting tool, promoting policy coherence and deeper integration of nutrition goals across various sectors.
- **Support Food Sytems Transformation towards Agroecology:** Advocate for increased peasant agroecology spending in the EU external action budget
- **Reinforce Access to Funding for local actors:** Increase and secure long-term and flexible funding for local communities, CSOs and grassroots groups

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Upcoming opportunities for a Team Europe Engagement

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Guiding questions

1. How will Member States leverage upcoming moments to ensure Team Europe contributes politically and financially to the achievement of food and nutrition security international targets and goals?
2. How do the EU and its Member States plan to enhance support and engagement in protecting food security through humanitarian diplomacy, an in what ways can NGOs contribute to these efforts?

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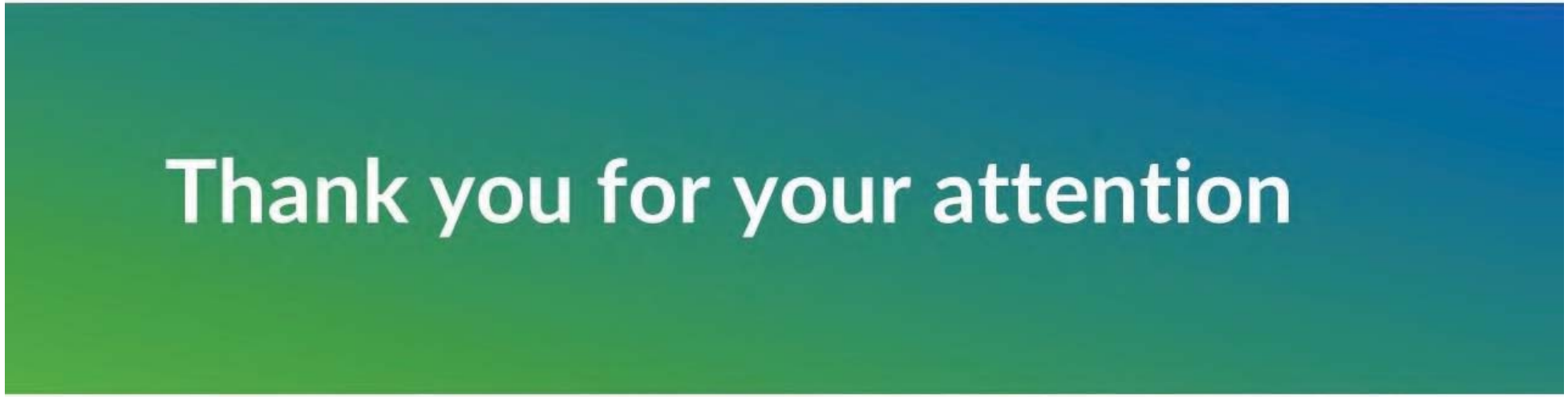

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