Hunger in all its manifestations is at unacceptable levels. The evidence – through the Global Report on Food Crises – has consistently flagged high levels of acute hunger – above 100 million people each year for the last three years. Conflict and insecurity are the primary drivers of this acute food insecurity, followed closely by climate shocks and economic turbulence.

While humanitarian assistance remains critical to promptly save lives and livelihoods, and alleviate human suffering, more coordinated efforts are needed to address the root causes of food crises.

Founded by the European Commission for International Cooperation and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) at the first World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, the Global Network Against Food Crises is an alliance of humanitarian and development actors united by a commitment to tackle the root causes of food crises through increased sharing of analysis and knowledge, and strengthened coordination to promote collective efforts across the Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) nexus.

What is the Global Network Against Food Crises?

The vision underpinning the Global Network Against Food Crises is to bring together partners across the spectrum of interventions to prevent and respond to food crises, incorporating humanitarian and development actions and linking to other sectors, such as education, health, the environment and peace.

It aims to develop data-informed and evidence-based approaches, build capacities and provide knowledge in order to more effectively prevent, prepare for and respond to food crises, and ultimately contribute to longer term recovery, development and resilience building efforts.

The Global Network’s unique contribution is in addressing the multiple facets of food crises that cannot be successfully tackled by individual actors working under their own specific mandates. Through its work, the Global Network is facilitating a fundamental transformation in the way international and local actors interact to holistically address food crises worldwide.

Global challenges to tackle

Data and analysis gaps

Country-owned, consensus-based analyses building on harmonised data and global benchmarks to support programming and policymaking are still missing in many areas. The monitoring of the situation is also challenging.

Strategy and peace

Sustainable solutions to food crises are dependent on and require political will, nationally and globally.

Coordination and implementation

In order to prevent, address and monitor food crises, it is necessary to consolidate institutional arrangements and enhance linkages.

Knowledge gaps

The complex dynamics of local and regional food security and food systems and their connection to the interlinked drivers of vulnerability have yet to be fully understood and addressed.
How does it work?

Partners in the Global Network are committed to working together and achieving results in three key areas:

- **Understanding food crises** by generating evidence-based food insecurity, resilience, and risk analyses to increase the understanding of food crises, including knowledge management and communication monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- **Strategic investments** by leveraging evidence-based, coherent and integrated strategic programming with country-level impact.
- **Going beyond food** by seeking synergies and coordination with other sectors to address the full spectrum of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding needs. This aims to deliver a more inclusive, holistic, resilient and sustainable set of context-specific responses and solutions.

The Global Network will have a multiplier effect, promoting the adoption and scale-up of innovative products and processes within existing mechanisms and across sectors, along a systems approach implemented at global, regional and country levels. The interaction between these will allow the development of a body of evidence that decision-makers can use for planning. This will foster coordinated and evidence-based funding allocations, while ensuring country-level ownership of the interventions, global coherence and a robust mechanism for learning.

Definition and approach

The Global Network Against Food Crises has the ambition to play a critical role within the overall global food security governance architecture, through a focused and action-oriented engagement on food crises, with the goal of accelerating the transformation of food systems into resilient and sustainable systems.

from the takeaway messages, 1st high-level event of the Global Network Against Food Crises Brussels, 3–4 April 2019