

# Regional Consultation: Africa

## Working Group on Hunger

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### Recommendations

#### 1. Position FBOs on the Issue Hunger

##### Challenge

Governments have not sufficiently leveraged on the potentialities of faith-based organisations in their efforts to solve food crisis on the Continent. How can governments setup collaboration with faith-based organisations on fighting food insecurity and how can FBOs make themselves as critical stakeholders and position themselves in a coordinated manner?

##### Recommendations

- I. The G20 should support the creation of structures to allow for joint efforts of religious actors and government entities in fighting hunger.
- II. FBOs should register poverty alleviation initiatives and request collaboration with relevant agencies, such as development agencies and state institutions.
- III. The G20 should foster and create strategic partnerships on a local level among FBOs and regional organisations fighting hunger, for example, through the implementation of agro-pastoral projects.
- IV. Governments should leverage on the credibility of FBOs in the implementation of recommendations.
- V. FBOs to partner with government/ institutions in building agriculture community centres to implement food security responses

#### 2. Collaborate to Mechanise Agriculture

##### Challenge

Most of farming activities are inefficient and not sustainable and there is a lack of training for men and women in the field of food processing, production, storage, and marketing.

##### Recommendations

- I. Governments should support mechanization of agriculture including food storage and processing. FBOs can provide supportive sensitization on the mechanization for their communities, whereas government should ensure monitoring of mechanization of activities.
- II. In partnership with FBOs, governments should foster agricultural commercialization in order to increase investment in African countries towards food sufficiency.
- III. FBOs/RA should speak out and advocate for regular training, that such relevant trainings and engagements should be offered and accepted by both men and women.
- IV. Governments need to ensure infrastructure that allows sellers and buyers to circulate with their vehicles and / or their means of transport.
- V. Explore the potential and strengthen the role of religious networks in sustainable Agroecology: new methods of farming to be energy efficient, water efficient; protect the quality of soil; limit harmful pesticides.

- VI. Encourage and create favourable conditions for local community sustainable food production (e.g. community gardens) – allocate public land for community gardens (rural and urban areas).
- VII. There should be investment in research and manpower development. This will bring about new techniques in food production for boost in agriculture and human capital.
- VIII. Faith based organizations can influence their members/communities to generation funds for investment in agriculture to curb food insecurity eg in my community my faith group has for 5 years now become the food storehouse of the host community through its Food Processing Program. No waste of any kind, tubers and grains are preserved at the time of harvest, processed and stored in bags. For many months the community and the neighborhood continues to enjoy proximity to food supply at affordable prices.

### **3. Conduct needs assessments and ensure up to date data on hunger and livelihood distribution**

#### **Challenge**

There is a lack of evidence and data to allow for an assessment of appropriate and necessary actions in fighting hunger.

#### **Recommendation**

- I. Government should work closely with population agencies to ensure that up to date data is available on census and needs of livelihood. Faith communities should be part of this process and advocate for truthful and comprehensive research.
- II. There should be efforts to combine emergency food distribution with the collection of important social and health data – to be able to design safety nets for vulnerable families (young and old) – whilst strengthening health and social systems.
- III. Review national agricultural policies – to support both small and commercial farmers, as well as “cooperative networks”.

### **4. Provide training and capacity building to ensure equal participation**

#### **Challenge**

How can faith communities be engaged in crafting curricula to increase equal participation, just distribution of goods and sharing or livelihoods?

#### **Recommendations**

- I. Promote the concept of participatory engagement in the educational and pedagogical curricula and realizing the principle that wealth’s enough for everyone and it exists to be shared with justice.
- II. FBOs/Religious Actors should engage in advocacy with bodies concerned with curriculum development in order to add aspect of just livelihood distribution.
- III. The G20 should identify and support FBOs with training and resources to engage in sustainable endeavors toward food availability and sufficiency for the less privileged, the unemployed and victims of violence and natural occurrences.
- IV. Trade policy model by the nations to increase food supply at lower prices especially where the poverty rate is high. On the other hand, government can increase the cost of food supply produced by the poor to increase their earnings.
- V. Preaching of Peace and Stability as indispensable keys to policies and programs formulation that affect food security at all levels.

## 5. Address the sources of conflict that lead to hunger, poverty and scarcity of livelihood

### Challenge

Conflicts are often resource based.

### Recommendations

- I. Governments should engage religious actors as mediators between parties of resources-based conflicts.
- II. G20 should encourage national governments to emphasize interreligious/interfaith education as an important long-term strategy to fight conditions that produce poverty and hunger.
- III. Ensure structured dialogue (formal agreements) between faith communities and national governments, multilateral organisations – to ensure effective implementation and collaboration; and to curb fraud in distribution of food and procurement of services.