



**Commission on Population and Development, 52<sup>nd</sup> Session**  
**Statement by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)**  
**1 – 5 April**

Agenda Item 3 - General Debate of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

I address you today, on behalf of the World Food Programme.

The challenge we face to reach Zero Hunger is immense: 821 million people are chronically food-insecure and 113 million in 2018 were acutely malnourished.

The consequences of hunger are devastating. Hunger can stop entire countries from reaching their potential. The WFP's study on the Cost of Hunger in Africa, in partnership with NEPAD and the AU, demonstrated that the cost of hunger can be up to 19 per cent of a country's gross domestic product (GDP).

Hunger can lead to violence because of spikes in global food prices.

Hunger forces populations to leave their homes. Our studies have shown that with every one per cent increase in food insecurity, two percent more people are forced to migrate.

And as the global population increases, so to does the pressure on local, regional and global level resources.

**The numbers are daunting, but solutions exist:** investing in long-term livelihood opportunities that are inclusive, empowering women, girls, youth, migrants and host populations and other groups at risk to become reliant on themselves.

Each dollar invested in livelihood support has generated a return of US \$ 3.67 in real terms over a 20-year period in the case of Niger. This includes restoring



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ecosystems, that connect farmers to markets, helping to reduce their post-harvest losses, provision of school meals and investing in nutrition. As a result, people migrate less as they are able to generate income in their communities.

With political will and global investment a world without hunger is a reality that we can achieve. The World Food Programme therefore works with governments to invest in Social Protection schemes at community level.

We applaud the Commission on Population and Development's attention to those left furthest behind and welcome the commission and its members for putting food-security and nutrition on next year's agenda.

Thank you for your attention