

Summary of Remarks by Dr. Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, GAIN (Global Alliance for Nutrition) -2018 World Food Prize Laureate

- Hunger numbers are increasing. Between mid-2020 and mid-2021, the number of people suffering from hunger increased by 20%. These figures are expected to increase in 2022. 75% of Africans could not afford healthy diet.
- This situation is expected to get worse due to the effects of the crisis in Ukraine, including disrupted trade policies and massive increase in the prices of fuel, fertilizers and food and also in debt servicing as well as the decrease in income. There is a strong case for debt cancellation.
- Before the crisis in Ukraine, only 6 out of 54 African countries were on track to meet the targets on reducing stunting.
- The good news is that a lot can be done on the policy front.
- Many governments spend a lot on agricultural subsidies that were designed a long time ago. They are subsidizing the wrong things. They should subsidize nutritious food that strengthens resilience.
- Also funding for research and development should go to nutritious food that is more resilient to shocks.
- Public procurement policies are also outdated. They also should focus on more nutritious food that is more resilient. On the affordability side, it's important to reduce food loss which is high including post-harvest.
- It's important to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) access to innovation. Cost of getting a patent in Africa are much too high compared to other regions. Important to change patents laws in African countries for SMEs to innovate in nutritious food.
- Importance to support SMEs access to finance. The public sector needs to be more active to make projects attractive for private sector funding, including by de-risking projects.
- Key areas to diversify: diversify energy sources that agriculture uses; bio-diversity for food and agriculture needs to increase; diversification in terms of what we grow at the national level; and diet diversification.