



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO

NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES ALLIANCE for Food Security and Peace



From left: Tawakkol Karman, Oscar Arias Sánchez, José Graziano da Silva, Betty Williams and Muhammad Yunus.
©FAO/A. Benedetti

On **11 May 2016**, the FAO Director-General convened a meeting with Nobel Peace Laureates to discuss how peace is a prerequisite for achieving food security for all, and how improving food security can contribute to peace and security.

That day, the **FAO-Nobel Peace Laureates Alliance for Food Security and Peace** was established by the FAO Director-General and four Nobel Peace Laureates (Oscar

Arias Sánchez, Tawakkol Karman, Betty Williams and Muhammad Yunus). They discussed with FAO Members the challenges and opportunities for FAO to amplify its contribution to conflict prevention, stability and peacebuilding in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The overall goal of the Alliance is to contribute to creating the necessary political will to eradicate

hunger within this generation and to build sustainable peace.

With the support of FAO Members, the Alliance will:

- (i) raise awareness and champion global and country-level activities promoting the links between food security and peacebuilding;
- and (ii) highlight FAO's technical leadership in agricultural and food security policies and actions that promote peace, rural development and food security.

Since its establishment in May 2016, the main activities of the Alliance have been:

Advocacy

The FAO Director-General has attended several events presenting and promoting the Alliance. During the 2016 FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and North Africa, the World Humanitarian Summit 2016, and the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-VI), FAO formulated and raised key messages. FAO has identified the following key messages that should be promoted to create global political will in support of strengthening peace through increased food security.

Facts and figures:

Post-conflict countries with high food insecurity are **40 percent more likely to relapse into conflict** within a 10-year time span.



Agriculture accounts for two-thirds of employment and one-third of gross domestic product (GDP) in countries in protracted crises.

Since 2000, **48 percent of civil conflicts have been in Africa**, where access to rural land underpins the livelihoods of many, and where in 27 out of 30 interstate conflicts land issues have played a significant role.



42 500
PEOPLE
FLEEING
PER DAY

Every day in 2014, **conflicts and violence forced about 42 500 people to flee their homes** and seek safety either internally or across borders. Few refugees (only 1 percent) have returned, less than at any point in the past 30 years.

In 2014, **children constituted 51 percent of the refugee population**, the highest percentage in more than a decade.

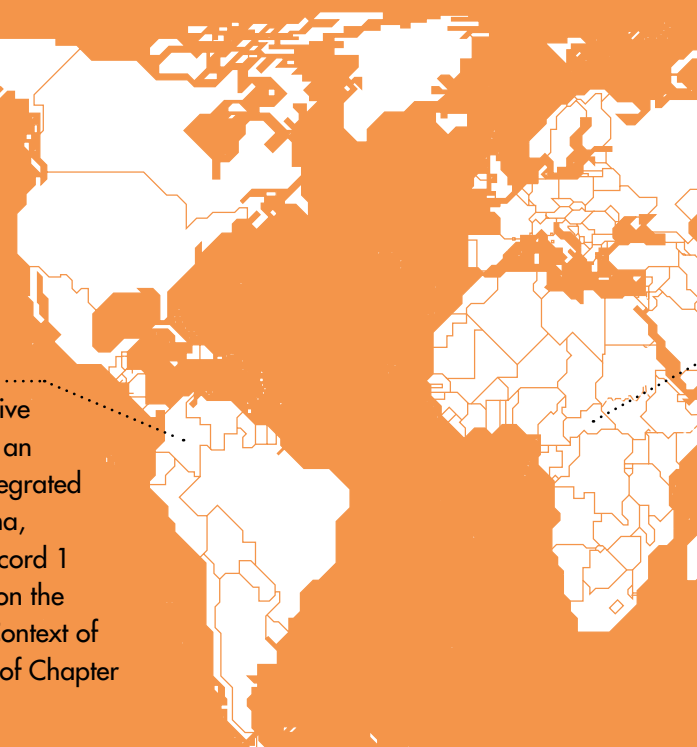


Country projects

FAO has identified three country projects to be implemented with the members of the Alliance.

Colombia

FAO is responsible for supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Rural Reform for the realization of peace in the country. FAO has played an important role in supporting the Government in the implementation of integrated rural development. Along with the European Union and La Via Campesina, FAO has been asked by the Government to help implement the Peace Accord 1 on Comprehensive Rural Reform. In Colombia, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) are the main tool for the implementation of Chapter 1 of the Peace Agreement.



KEY MESSAGES

- **The 2030 Agenda highlights that there is no peace without sustainable development and that there is no sustainable development without peace.** With the advent of the 2030 Agenda, FAO wants to draw the world's attention to the role of food security and agriculture in preventing conflicts and crises, mitigating their impacts and promoting post-crisis recovery and healing. Ending hunger and malnutrition, addressing humanitarian and protracted crises, preventing and resolving conflicts, and building peace are not separate tasks, but simply different facets of the same challenge. The broad mandate of FAO in the areas of food security and nutrition, agriculture, fisheries and forestry enables the Organization to contribute to a safer and more peaceful world.
- **Most conflicts mainly affect rural areas and their populations.** This is particularly true for civil conflicts, nowadays the most common form of armed conflict. Conflict has strong and unambiguous adverse effects on food security and nutrition. It is the major driver of food insecurity and malnutrition, both acute and chronic. Conflict has lasting impacts on human development as a result of increased malnutrition, which tends to affect children the most and leave lifelong physical and/or mental disabilities and difficulties. Causal effects of the conflict and food-security nexus vary across conflict zones, but common features are disruption of food production and food systems, plundering of crops and livestock, and loss of assets and incomes, hence directly and indirectly affecting food access.
- **Food insecurity can also be a source of conflict.** Where it is, it is never the one single factor behind the strife. Causal effects of the conflict and food-security nexus include loss of assets (including land and livestock) and threats to food security (including sudden food-price increases), but in conjunction with other forms of grievance and discontent.
- **Building resilience through peacebuilding efforts is critical for food security and nutrition.** Little is known about how, and to what extent, improved food security could prevent conflict, and build and sustain peace. Yet, depending on context-specific conditions, food aid and social protection, as well as helping communities complete harvests, food security tends to contribute significantly to peacebuilding.



Central African Republic

With the financial support of the Italian Government, the first Government to support the Alliance, FAO will implement a project to reinforce agricultural production on 150 hectares of land in Bimbo (5 km from the capital Bangui). The land is owned by the Holy See and hosts 3 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). The project will work with Catholics and Muslims to reinforce social cohesion and provide employment opportunities for IDPs and ex-combatants.

Myanmar

FAO is negotiating a project funded by the Italian oil and gas company ENI to build resilient communities and to bolster their ability to adapt and respond to the various shocks they face. It is necessary to address the endemic poverty in the region, a poverty resulting, in part, from vulnerable and unpredictable seasonal livelihoods that feed a cycle of debt. The project will target 4 000 households living below the poverty line in Minhla, Magway and Myothit townships in Magway State, providing the tools and skills for people to raise themselves out of poverty and move forwards towards a resilient food-secure future.

Strengthening resilience and sustainable development

Much of FAO's work aims to promote sustainable development and build the resilience of rural populations. By supporting agriculture and rural development, FAO helps create jobs, provide incomes and boost youth employment. This can help prevent distress migration and radicalization, as well as mitigate disputes over depleted resources. Where conflicts arise, FAO seeks to sustain agriculture production and assist vulnerable communities to ensure food security and help restore post-crisis economies. FAO plays a unique role in protecting, restoring and developing the livelihoods of farmers, fishers, herders, foresters and others who depend on agriculture and natural resources for sustenance, security and prosperity. Conflict prevention and resolution require secure and resilient conditions that meet the needs of rural people in terms of both nutrition and livelihoods.

Supporting rehabilitation and reintegration

When families are displaced by armed conflict, communities become resource-poor, and livelihood opportunities and food sources become very limited. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes aim to support the voluntary disarmament and discharge of combatants from armed groups. FAO works closely with UN peacebuilding and peacekeeping actors to reintegrate former combatants in post-conflict countries.

Promoting sustainable land-conflict resolution

Participatory Negotiated Territorial Development (PNTD) is a confidence-building, facilitated dialogue approach that brings together around the negotiating table different and often opposing stakeholders to discuss and seek solutions to issues around land tenure, customary land rights and the sustainable use of natural resources. The main contesting parties – for example, land administration and customary authorities, farmers, private actors and armed groups – are engaged in a participatory territorial analysis to help identify the underlying causes of issues surrounding natural-resource access. The history, perceptions and interests of different parties are captured, and from this a socio-territorial agreement is negotiated. The agreement foresees a series of specific duties, rights and responsibilities concerning the access, use and management of land. Customary and formal institutions monitor implementation. Using the PNTD approach, land disputes related to refugee return and IDPs are reduced. This represents the beginning of a process with clear peace dividends, with its legitimacy rooted in inclusive dialogue among the stakeholders concerned. Additional technical interventions, such as community nurseries, help build local capacities and strengthen nascent social cohesion. This approach falls within the context of the VGGT, which are a fundamental tool for the promotion of sustainable peace and social cohesion. The VGGT promote secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests as a means of eradicating hunger and poverty, supporting sustainable development and enhancing the environment.

Partnerships

Partnerships are key to FAO's efforts to deliver context-specific, comprehensive, people-centred and preventive interventions. This is the heart of the FAO Nobel Peace Laureates Alliance for Food Security and Peace – an innovative and powerful partnership to sustain peace in a world free of hunger.