

CONFERENCE

« WHEN HUNGER FUELS CONFLICTS »



JUNE 15TH, 2018
Arab World Institute, Paris

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Hunger is a symptom. It is the expression of the infringement of one of the most crucial securities for everyone: the capacity to eat in a satisfactory manner, quantitatively and qualitatively. Undernutrition, the extreme expression of which is famine, is ensued by several determining factors: a State's poor governance, environmental damage, conflicts of all sorts, taking place in a narrow entanglement between the alterations of a population's physical or psychological health.

Hunger can be a consequence of conflicts, but it can also be a source of violence, fueling a feedback loop that intrinsically links it to conflicts.

The "World Day Against Hunger" is, occasionally but symbolically, the opportunity for Action Against Hunger to question this aspect of the violent episodes yielded by the lack of food. This is a conscious but realistic reduction of the analysis' scope, because we are aware that conflicts cannot be reduced to one single motive.

What is the conflict situation in the world? In which war-torn countries is hunger a powerful vehicle? Here are the first general issues that are going to be presented and then discussed, before a more precise examination of two countries: the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

These discussions would not have taken place without the valuable contribution of the Arab World Institute, the European Institute for the History and Cultures of Food, and external guests, paving the way for the development of successful collaborations. This day occurs 24 hours before our General meeting, allowing us to gather Country Directors, employees and associative officials, all contributors to the development of Action Against Hunger's projects in the field. May all the protagonists of this meeting be greatly thanked.

Pierre Micheletti, Vice-President of Action Against Hunger



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PROGRAM

8h30 – 9h00 Registration Desk Opens

9h00 – 9h30 Opening

→ By **Mr Jack Lang**, former Minister and President of the Arab World Institute.

→ Welcome by Mr Pierre Micheletti, Vice-President of Action Against Hunger, and Mr Loïc Bienassis, Historian, Institut Européen d'Histoire et des Cultures de l'Alimentation at the University of Tours.

9h30 – 11h00 Panel 1

« Influence of hunger on conflict issues in a global perspective »

In order to work on a comprehensive thinking environment on the links between hunger and conflict, Marilena Geugjes and Vincent Stüber will focus on the role played by hunger in the escalation of violence throughout the world: direct cause, claimed reason, catalyst, political weapon...

→ By Mrs Marilena Geugjes and Mr Vincent Stüber, researchers at the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIC).

Followed by a debate with the audience, moderated by Mr Yann Mens, journalist.

11h15 – 12h45 Panel 2

« At the core of wars, hunger reflects today's North-South relationships »

Marc Lavergne will offer an interpretative scheme, going beyond the situational by targeting the core links between hunger and conflict, and adding the North-South relations to the core of its analysis.

→ By Mr Marc Lavergne and Mr Vincent Stüber, researchers at the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIC).

Followed by a debate with the audience, moderated by Mrs Christine Oberdorff, journalist.

12h45 – 14h00 Lunch – possible discussions with

- Country Director of the Yemen Mission Action Against Hunger, Mrs Valentina Ferrante
 - Country Director of the Myanmar Mission Action Against Hunger, Mr Juan Gabriel Wells
 - Country Director of the Afghanistan Mission Action Against Hunger, Dr Kinga Komorowska
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14h00 – 14h15 Opening

→ By Mr Pierre Micheletti, Vice-President of Action Against Hunger.

14h15 – 15h45 Round Table 1

« How to break the vicious cycle between hunger and conflict in Central African Republic (CAR): agricultural policies and social cohesion as key issues. »

The crisis in Central African Republic is part of a chronic violence. The agricultural disrepair has reached a critical point: now pushing the peasants into conflicts. The country does not have the means to get out of a survival economy

and the populations are forced to adopt some negative adaptation strategies that foster food insecurity. Several incidents between different population's groups have endangered the social cohesion of the country. While the current interventions of the funders are too focused on emergency actions. Such a vision does not allow working on those structural aspects of the crisis; and fosters the populations' vulnerability.

SPEAKERS :

- Mr Benjamin Vienot, Country Director of the CAR Mission
- Mr Jimi Richardson, Programme Policy Officer, Emergencies and Transitions Unit (OSZPH), Policy and Programme Division du Programme alimentaire mondial
- Mr Marc Dufumier, agronomist, emeritus professor at AgroParisTech

→ Animated by Mrs Audrey Pulvar, President of Fondation pour la Nature et l'Homme and Ambassador of Action Against Hunger.

Followed by a debate with the audience.

16H00 -17H30 Round Table 2

« Grand Kasai: the complex response to a prolonged hunger crisis aggravated by a recent conflict.»

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been mired for several decades in a crisis.

The health and agricultural and rural development fields face an historical underinvestment. This results in an extended food crisis and a severe vulnerability of the whole population.

At the same time, the conflict also jeopardizes the food security: disorganization of the agricultural season, population's displacement, degraded access to the basic services... Given this, the international community appears powerless, while the humanitarian aid is being used as a political tool by the government.

SPEAKERS :

- Mr Luc Bellon, Country Director of the DRC Mission
- Mr Julius Jackson (FAO), Technical Officer (Protracted Crises) at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization
- Mwayila Tshiyembe, Associate Professor at the University of Lubumbashi (Zaire), Director of the Pan-African Institute of Geopolitics

→ Animated by Mrs Elizabeth Tchoungui, journalist.

Followed by a debate with the audience.

17H30 – 17H45 Closing

→ By Mr Thomas Ribémont, President of Action Against Hunger, and Mrs Audrey Pulvar, President of Fondation pour la Nature et l'Homme and Ambassador of Action Against Hunger.

17H45 – 19H00 Closing cocktail

BIOGRAPHIES

Luc Bellon is an anthropologist by training. He has performed several consultancies for Action Aid, AGIRE and Transparency International in Pakistan, Haiti and Palestine. After being Country Director in Pakistan for Handicap International, he is now Country Director in DRC for Action Against Hunger.

Loïc Bienassis is a historian, member of the European Institute for the History and Cultures of Food (IEHCA)/Tour University. He carries out research programs in the History of food and gastronomy, while working on publications for a larger public.

Marc Dufumier is distinguished professor in comparative agriculture and agricultural development at the Institut des Sciences et Industries du Vivant et de l'Environnement at AgroParisTech, where he is also teacher-researcher. He undertook several expert missions in developing countries (Mexico, Haiti, Central African Republic, Vietnam...).

Marilena Geugjes studied a PhD at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Heidelberg. She started working for the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIC) in 2014. She is also editor in chief for the HIIC annual world report «Conflict Barometer».

Julius Jackson is a Technical Officer (Protracted Crises) at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. Under FAO's Strategic Programme on Resilience he works on conflict-affected contexts, on how supporting livelihoods can contribute to sustaining peace.

Marc Lavergne is a geographer, director of research at CNRS (CITERES laboratory, University of Tours). A specialist in development issues and crises and conflicts in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, he coordinated the UN Security Council's expert group on Darfur (2006).

Yann Mens is a journalist and managing editor of the quarterly newspaper Alternatives Internationales. Before that, he was the deputy chief of the international service at the daily newspaper La Croix. He is also a jazz critic and the author of several children's books.

Pierre Micheletti is a doctor and holds the national diploma of public health. He became President of Doctors of the World in 2006. Since 2009, he has teaching at the Institute of Political Studies of Grenoble and at the Faculty of Medicine of Grenoble. In 2015, he became Vice President of Action Against Hunger.

Christine Oberdorff is a journalist and a movie director. In 2007, the Ushuaïa TV channel entrusted her with a series of documentaries devoted to major environmental and planetary issues. She is currently editor-in-chief and her documentaries campaign for a positive ecology.

Audrey Pulvar graduated from the Paris School of Journalism. She is President of the Fondation pour la Nature et l'Homme since June, 2017. She has been ambassador for Action Against Hunger since 2017 and went to intervention areas such as the Burkina Faso.

Thomas Ribémont is a doctor from Paris 9 Dauphine University, a senior lecturer in political science and a researcher at CERAL at Paris 13 Sorbonne Paris Cité University. He is also associate researcher at ICEE (University Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle) and CEPEL (University of Montpellier 1). He has been President of Action Against Hunger since 2016.

Jimi Richardson works in Policy & Programme Division of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Rome, Italy. He is part of the team that produced WFP's peacebuilding policy in 2013 and is now developing WFP's corporate approach to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Vincent Stüber graduated in Political Science and History at Heidelberg University in 2017. He started working for the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIC) in 2014. His research interests are partly the implementation of peace agreements and interdisciplinary approaches to mediation.

Elizabeth Tchoungui is a Franco-Cameroonian journalist and writer who graduated from Lille's Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme. She is a presenter for Number 23 (Altice Group / NextRadio TV) and France Ô (France Télévisions Group). She is also Administrator and Deputy Secretary General of Action Against Hunger.

Benjamin Vienot graduated from the M.A Humanitarian Affairs from Lyon 2 University. He then performed several consultancies for Mercy Corps, USAID, the Italian Cooperation and UNICEF. He joined Action Against Hunger in 2013. He is now Country Director in CAR.

Mwayila Tshiyembe is a Doctor of State in Law, graduate of Hautes Etudes Internationales, graduate of Advanced Studies in Political Science, former journalist, Associate Professor at the University of Lubumbashi (Zaire), Lecturer at the Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques de Paris, Director of the Pan-African Institute of Geopolitics, preparing a doctorate in Political Science.



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