



Food and Hunger Program - Goals and Strategy (revised June, 2012)

GPF's program on Food and Hunger provides analysis, education and advocacy at United Nations headquarters in New York. The program addresses global hunger through policy initiatives aimed at both short-term response and long-term structural change in the agriculture and food sector. GPF is concerned about the deepening global food crisis and we urgently seek to change unjust and unsustainable practices. GPF works with humanitarian organizations, faith groups, NGOs, grassroots movements, and agricultural scientists as well as UN staff and delegations.

Goals

Effective intervention requires a multi-faceted approach by GPF and its advocacy partners to:

- Broaden the conversation at the UN in New York about sustainable agriculture, justice for small producers and global policy options for the future.
- Address the important feedback loop between agriculture and climate change, which particularly affects vulnerable communities.
- Raise such central issues as land transfers, nutrition, and financial speculation in food commodities, as well as a gender-based policy approach and a focus on the impact of hunger on children.
- Consider new approaches to sharing and conserving the world's scarce fresh water resources and protecting soil, from the point of view of food production needs.
- Explore the options to support smallholders, especially women, and strengthening a pluri-cultural, ecological approaches to farming practice.
- Consider and promote new policymaking architecture and agreements, including a strengthened Committee on World Food Security and coordinated action throughout the United Nations system, especially in New York.
- Emphasize the Right to Food for all the world's people.

Strategy

GPF pursues its goals by means of the following:

- Working cooperatively with concerned organizations and people, including NGO representatives, academic experts, leaders of grassroots movements, think tank researchers, diplomats, staff of multilateral organizations, etc.
- Producing research and publications to inform the public and the policy community.
- Giving interviews to the media.
- Working with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.
- Working with the Committee on World Food Security and especially with the Civil Society Mechanism.

- Bringing small producers and agricultural workers from diverse countries into contact with the UN community, so as to amplify their voices and to enable them to better engage with global policy making
- Acting as Convener of the NGO Working Group on Food & Hunger at the UN

The NGO Working Group on Food & Hunger at the UN

The membership of the Working Group comprises a number of GPF partners with active representation at the UN. Most partners represent large international NGOs with field presence in many countries. These partners include Church World Service, United Methodist Women, the Presbyterian Church, WhyHunger, Caritas, Save the Children and Action Against Hunger. The Working Group also cooperates closely with Corresponding Members based in various other locations and with organizations and movements in the Global South.

As convener, GPF:

- Works in close cooperation with partners and others to define issues, refine analysis and increase solidarity.
- Maintains close contact with the Civil Society Mechanism of the Committee on World Food Security in Rome and seeks to bring CFS work to the attention of the UN community in New York.
- Coordinates the food and hunger advocacy of Working Group members, through regular meetings, information-sharing (including circulation of key documents) and planning of advocacy strategies.
- Organizes advocacy meetings between the Working Group and key UN policymakers, including diplomats of UN member states and staff in the UN Secretariat as well as staff in agencies, funds and programs with responsibilities for food and agriculture policy.
- Organizes public events to educate and inform the UN community about the root causes of the food crisis and possible solutions.
- Monitors the work of the UN General Assembly and the GA's Second and Third Committees and advocates for strong and constructive resolutions by these bodies on food security and the right to food.
- Emphasizes the holistic nature of food security policy and the need to address many issues in a coordinated manner.