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Alliance of European NGOs call on the EU to take urgent action to end worldwide hunger crisis

“Pivotal moment for EU decision makers” says Alliance2015 President, Dominic MacSorley

Dominic MacSorley, President of Alliance2015, a group of seven European NGOs engaged in humanitarian and development activities across the globe, has called on EU leaders to take decisive and urgent action to end the worldwide hunger crisis.

At an event moderated by MEP Mairead McGuinness in Brussels’ Press Club this evening (Tues, 11th October) Mr MacSorley launched the 2016 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report which documents that 795 million people are facing hunger every day. Speaking to over 150 delegates, including EU Commissioner Neven Mimica, Mr MacSorley, President of Alliance2015 and Chief Executive of INGO, Concern Worldwide, said:

“European Union and global leaders last year signed up to wiping out hunger by 2030, Goal 2 of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Today’s GHI shows that hunger is declining at too slow a rate to reach the 2030 target of zero hunger.

As the largest donor in the world the EU has shown immense leadership in recent years in the fight against hunger, ending malnutrition & building resilience. This leadership is needed more than ever now in light of the GHI findings. As the EU develops its plans for implementing the 2030 Agenda, Alliance2015 calls on the EU to accelerate progress towards zero hunger.”

Alliance2015 and IFPRI this evening put forward several key recommendations for EU decision makers:

- To focus their efforts on the world’s most excluded populations, those who are so often impacted by conflict, climate change and conditions of social and economic inequality, those who are left behind such as small holder farmers, the vast majority of whom are women.
- To transform our food systems: by promoting sustainable production and consumption, and innovative approaches to food security that are genuinely people-centred, economically viable, resilient and sustainable; systems that focus on small holder farmers and which make farming part of the solution to climate change.
- To address the Data Drought: some countries have no ranking in this year’s Index because the data does not exist. Lack of data or old data is a huge issue when seeking to measure hunger. Filling the data gaps is essential in order that the needs of people on the ground are better and more quickly understood and met.
- To engage civil society actors in a meaningful way in the design, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development, food security, farming and resilience policies.



Two Communications are expected to be published next month: a Communication on Sustainable Development setting out how the EU is going to work towards the SDGs, and a Communication on the revised European Consensus on Development, which will guide EU development cooperation across the globe. According to Alliance2015 President Dominic MacSorley “The EU’s commitment to get to zero hunger by 2030 must be clearly articulated in these pivotal Communications”.

The 2016 Global Hunger Index data indicates that unfortunately the global community is not on course to end hunger by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal deadline of 2030. If hunger declines at the same rate as the report finds it has since 1992, more than 45 countries - including India, Pakistan, Haiti, Yemen, and Afghanistan - will still have “moderate” to “alarming” hunger scores in the year 2030, far short of the goal to end hunger by that year.

The Central African Republic, Chad, and Zambia had the highest levels of hunger in the report. Seven countries had “alarming” levels of hunger, while 43 countries – including high-population countries like India, Nigeria, and Indonesia – had “serious” hunger levels.

The report outlined some bright spots in the fight to end world hunger. The level of hunger in developing countries as measured by the Global Hunger Index has fallen by 29 percent since 2000. Twenty countries, including **Rwanda, Cambodia, and Myanmar, have all reduced their GHI scores by over 50 percent each since 2000.** And for the second year in a row, no developing countries for which data was available were in the “extremely alarming” category.

Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, also delivered a keynote address at this evening’s event on the EU’s commitment to zero hunger and leaving no one behind.

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