



## European Humanitarian Forum

### Hunger and Conflict

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 11:00 - 12:45

#### Panelists

*Cécile Duflot*, Executive Director OXFAM France; *Ute Klamert*, Assistant Executive Director WFP; *Charles Goerens*, Member of the European Parliament; *Beatrice Eluaka*, Consultant, former Executive Secretary of Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria; *Vincent Stehli*, VOICE Board member & Director of Operations, Action Contre la Faim, ACF; *Marriet Schuurman*, Director for Stabilisation and Humanitarian Aid, The Netherlands

#### *Interventions from the floor*

*Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari*, CEO Qatar Charity; *Andrea Koulaimah*, European Commission, DG ECHO, Director Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and Pacific; *Grazia Careccia*, Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre, Syria Regional desk manager

#### Executive Summary

*“Hunger is the most solvable problem in the world, neither complex, nor difficult”*

The session “Hunger and Conflict” aimed at better understanding the structural issues, root causes and dynamics between hunger and conflict and at identifying potential solutions and concrete steps to take. It was opened with a personal account Harriett, a South-Sudanese refugee currently living in Uganda, which described how she experienced hunger both consequently from the conflict in her homeland and as driver of conflict in a Ugandan refugee camp.

The panelists identified the following **five key conditions** to break the circle between hunger and conflict

- *Political*: Political will to focus on action and deliver on existing commitments; bold political leadership to go a step further and encourage partners to follow.
- *Dialogue and cooperation*: Extended dialogue with conflict parties to support conflict resolution and improve access, cooperation with local actors, ensuring all relevant actors and their knowledge are included (the localization agenda is key here also);
- *Funding*: Close the funding gap; realise commitment of EU Member States to spend 0,7% of national GDPs on development cooperation; enlarge the donor base with non-traditional donors; reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance by identifying durable political and development solutions (here the triple nexus agenda is key);
- *Strategic thinking*: Overcome short-term thinking and invest in midterm goals including infrastructure, strengthened resilience and education;
- *Focus on the essential*: Strengthen IHL as basic principle by monitoring and reporting war crimes that endanger food security, calling out perpetrators and fostering compliance and accountability.

Recommendations from the panel:

- At EU level, acknowledge both the relevance and urgency of the issue and include conflict and hunger as standing point in discussions between the EU and its Member States.
- Increase resilience by building-up stocks ensuring food security over a minimum of two seasons.