



PRESS RELEASE

8 1 F D O O V I R U X U J H Q W D F W L R Q W R I H H population healthily, equitably and sustainably

New York, 19 April The COVID-19 crisis has added between 83 and 132 million to the 690 million people worldwide who were already undernourished, casting doubt on the chances of meeting global targets on food security and nutrition and prompting calls for an overhaul of WKH ZRUOG ¶ V IRRG V \ V - W U H P V S S I O F K H W K B o m m i s s i o n o n P o p u l a t i o n and Development will discuss.

7 K L V \ H e a d q u a r t e r s o f t h e C o m m i s s i o n o n P o p u l a t i o n a n d D e v e l o p m e n t w i l l r u n f r o m 19 t o 23 April. Participants will examine the interlinkages between population, food security, nutrition and V X V W D L Q D E O H G H Y H O R S P H Q W W i k i n f o r m t h e p r e p a r a t i o n s o f G e n e r a l S y s t e m s S u m m i t t o b e c o n v e n e d b y t h e U n i t e d N a t i o n s S e c r e t a r y G e n e r a l i n S e p t e m b e r 2021.

3 2 X U F K L O G U H Q ¶ V I X W X Q U H X V W D L Q D E O H I R Z R W K \ V W H P V ´ V D L G / L X Nations Under Secretary * H Q H U D O I R U (F R Q R P L F D Q G 6 R F L D O \$ I I D L U V 3 : K D wreaking havoc on the planet, our current food systems fail the hundreds of millions who still go hungry and the billions that cannot afford a healthy diet. It is time for a change.

¶ Too often, it is women and girls who eat last and least, even if they are pregnant or breastfeeding, with devastating effects on their health and that of their children. Aida Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.

¶ Now, what was already bad has been made worse by COVID. We see spikes in gender based violence and child marriage, and women face barriers to sexual and reproductive health V H U Y L F H V , W L V D F U L V . W e z l a m k o f f e r z i r s b o d a n d o p p o r t u n i t i e s f o r building forward better and fairer for everyone.

3 7 K H F O R V H O L Q N D J H V E H W Z H H Q S R S X O D W L R Q I R P o p u l a t i o n F X U L W \ D D W W K H K H D U W R I V X V W D L Q D E O H G H Y H O R S P H Q W D Q G W K H F U H D Kalibata, UN Secretary * H Q H U D O ¶ V 6 S H F t h e 2021 G o o d S y s t e m s S u m m i t .

Population changes and the demand for food
The continuing growth of the human population, which is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, together with the growth in income per capita substantially increase the demand for food, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

The gradual ageing and urbanization of the global population will also affect food demand. The different food requirements of youth and older persons, as well as the different consumption patterns of urban and rural populations, will affect minimum dietary energy requirements and the demand for various types of food.

Current food systems are failing us

Globally, more than 3 billion people cannot afford healthy diets. Over 20 per cent of children under five suffer from stunting and 7 per cent from acute malnutrition. Meanwhile, 6 per cent of children under five and 39 per cent of adults are overweight, according to a [report](#) released ahead of the Commission on V D QeX Dg

Worldwide, only 19 per cent of children aged 236 months eat a minimally acceptable diet, while inadequate nutrition and anaemia among women of reproductive age contribute to poor health and d

agricultural sector. The introduction of new agricultural technologies can raise the productivity and incomes of family farmers and help to ensure the sustainability of the agricultural sector.

Efforts to increase education, prevent child marriage, reduce adolescent pregnancy and improve nutrition and access to family planning can help improve health. Programmes for education, social protection, food security and health care, including for sexual and reproductive health care services, should include nutrition education and assistance.

Targeted social protection programmes, protections for vulnerable food system workers, including migrant workers, protections for independent countries, and increased diversity and resilience of production and distribution systems, including temporary measures implemented during the COVID-19 crisis, can also contribute to a long-term transformation of food systems.

Follow the 54th session of the Commission on Population and Development [UN Web TV](#).

Background

Commission on Population and Development

The Commission on Population and Development, established by the UN Economic and Social Council, plays the primary role of monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, at the national, regional and international levels.

At the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, countries adopted a Programme of Action which set out a bold vision about the linkages between population, development and individual well-being and which continues to serve as a roadmap for people-centred development.

For more information about the Commission on Population and Development, visit: www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/CPD

For more information on the UN Secretary-General's [High Level Panel of Experts Report](#), visit: [Systems Summit | United Nations](#)

Available for interviews:

- Mr. John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (wilmoth@un.org)
- Ms. Rachel Snow, Chief, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA
- Ms. Cheryl Sawyer, Senior Population Affairs Officer, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (sawyer@un.org)
- Mr. Bela Hovy, Chief, Publications, Outreach and Support, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (hovy@un.org)

Media contacts:

Sharon Birch-Jeffrey, UN Department of Global Communications

T: 1 212-9630564 / birchs@un.org

Helen Rosengren, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

T: 1 212-963 9492 / hrosengren@un.org

Eddie Wright, United Nations Population Fund

T: 1 917-831-2074 / [E: ewright@unfpa.org](mailto:ewright@unfpa.org)