

Practical Measures to Prevent and Mitigate Conflict-Induced Food Insecurity

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1 Introduction

1.1 Impact of conflict on food security

Conflict is one of the main drivers of crisis levels of food insecurity. Armed conflict can cause food shortages and economic decline, disrupt food supply chains, and impede access for humanitarian aid, thereby impacting the food security, nutrition, and health of civilian populations. Its effects are compounded by other key drivers of food insecurity,¹ such as economic shocks and weather extremes linked to climate change. However, as with any form of civilian harm resulting from armed conflict, conflict-induced food insecurity is largely the result of foreseeable and preventable ways that armed actors—state and non-state—conduct themselves.

The damage and destruction of livelihoods, markets, means of food production and processing, personal property, livestock, and critical infrastructure increases the risks of food insecurity for civilians. That is the case whether it is collateral damage or a result of purposeful acts, and whether lawful or not² Restricting people’s movements and access to food, water, critical infrastructure, essential services, and humanitarian aid further amplifies food insecurity and malnutrition. Impacts, including contaminated land, food, and water supplies, have immediate and long-term effects on food systems.

Conflict-induced food insecurity touches every part of a person’s life and economic means, often increasing vulnerabilities and thus protection risks, which can have serious and lasting impacts on a person’s health and well-being. In communities affected by conflict-induced food insecurity, women and girls can become more vulnerable to different forms of gender-based violence (GBV) including sexual violence, sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation, as well as domestic and intimate partner violence.³ Families struggling to meet their sustenance and livelihoods needs may increasingly rely on harmful coping mechanisms, such as child labor, early forced marriages, and survival sex. In conflict settings, women frequently become heads of households and food producers. Women and girls have been subjected to GBV while undertaking essential livelihood activities such as fetching water, gathering food and firewood, tending fields, or traveling to markets. Both the threat and actual experience of GBV impact the well-being of women and girls (as well as their wider families), including by negatively affecting their ability to meet the food and subsistence needs of their families. Conflict-induced malnutrition can cause illness, exacerbate underlying health conditions, and lead to life-long disability, thereby diminishing people’s ability to cope with protection risks or other stressors. Protection risks, including the threat of conflict-

¹ WFP, April 2023, [Dangerously Hungry: The Link Between Food Insecurity and Conflict](#).

² WFP, April 2023, [Dangerously Hungry: The Link Between Food Insecurity and Conflict](#).

³ CARE, [Gender-based violence and food insecurity](#).

induced food insecurity, can also lead to displacement,⁴ which further exacerbates the food insecurity of those who have been displaced. These reverberating effects more often impact groups made vulnerable by conflict, such as women, girls, boys, older people, persons with disabilities and chronic diseases, and other marginalized groups, like ethnic groups and migrants.

1.2 Legal framework

UN Security Council Resolution 2417⁵ recognizes conflict-induced food insecurity as a threat to international peace and security and stresses that the use of starvation as a weapon of war may constitute a war crime.⁶ Parties to conflicts have a legal obligation to comply with international humanitarian law (IHL) (also known as the Law of Armed Conflict), many provisions of which are relevant to ensuring food security and preventing starvation and famine in situations of armed conflict.⁷ Violations of IHL often lead to food insecurity. Resolution 2417 recalls that conflict parties have “obligations related to protecting civilians and civilian objects, meeting the basic needs of the civilian population within their territory or under their effective control, and allowing and facilitating the rapid and unimpeded passage of impartial humanitarian relief to all those in need.” International human rights law (IHRL) enshrines people’s right to food⁸ at all times and requires that states provide an enabling environment in which people can produce or procure adequate food for themselves and their families. Regional treaties and national legal frameworks can offer additional protections. However, despite these provisions, adherence to international law has stalled and the number of people affected by conflict-induced food insecurity continues to rise.

1.3 Purpose of Practical Measures to Prevent and Mitigate Conflict-Induced Food Insecurity

Practical Measures to Prevent and Mitigate Food Insecurity is neither a monitoring nor an accountability tool. It is designed to help armed actors better comply with their legal obligations to protect civilians in all situations where they operate or control territory. Complying with IHL is the minimum that armed actors must do. The document lays out the policies, practices, and major considerations that armed actors must and should incorporate into their analysis, planning, operations, and post-operations that are necessary to mitigate civilian harm, specifically their impact on food security in the areas in which they operate. These measures are not an exhaustive list. They do not include all IHL obligations, nor reflect all the possible ways armed actors can

⁴ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, October 2022, [Global Food Insecurity is on the rise, so is internal displacement. What is the Relationship?](#)

⁵ [UN Security Council Resolution 2417](#)

⁶ International Criminal Court (ICC), Rome Statute, Article 8(2)(b)(xxv) and Article 8(2)(e)(xix). See: Research Society of International Law, [Starvation as a Method of Warfare](#).

⁷ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), [Starvation, Hunger, and Famine in Armed Conflict: An Overview of Relevant Provisions of International Humanitarian Law](#).

⁸ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Food and Agricultural Organization, [The Right to Adequate Food](#).

prevent or mitigate conflict-induced food insecurity. Many of the measures can be progressively realized as capacity and resources allow. Integrating these measures into policies and practices necessitates a contextualized understanding of the conflict and food system dynamics to adequately mitigate conflict-induced food insecurity.

Armed actors should implement Practical Measures to Prevent and Mitigate Conflict-Induced Food Insecurity in conjunction with broader political, military, and governance policies and practices to mitigate conflict-induced food insecurity in the country of operations and worldwide. This includes avoiding imposing economic measures and sanctions that have an adverse impact on food security.

2 Policies and practice—foundations of civilian-harm mitigation

To effectively protect civilians and meet their legal obligations, armed actors must do all they can to mitigate civilian harm, including conflict-induced food insecurity.⁹ This requires an armed actor to center civilian-harm mitigation and protection in its policies, training, and internal accountability mechanisms. The measures below should be applied along with broader policies and practices aimed at protecting civilians, mitigating civilian harm, and ensuring compliance with IHL.

2.1 Civilian-harm mitigation policies

All armed actors should have in place policies, guidance, and procedures (such as codes of conduct, rules of engagement, instructions) that reflect applicable law (for example, IHL, IHRL, and other normative frameworks) and emphasize the importance of preventing, minimizing, and responding to civilian harm. These policies should lay out the necessary actions, training, and enforcement procedures that allow armed actors to effectively anticipate, prevent, minimize, mitigate, and respond to civilian harm, including conflict-induced food insecurity. The policies should include (but are not limited to):

- A clear statement that civilians and civilian objects must be respected and protected and cannot be targeted. This must include direction to not attack, destroy, remove, or render useless objects and services indispensable to the survival and food security of the civilian population.¹⁰ There should also be explicit consideration of the foreseeable reverberating effects of damage to and destruction of essential services and vital infrastructure needed for food production, distribution, and access, and the need to mitigate these effects.
- A prohibition on forcibly displacing civilians unless for their own safety or imperative military reasons. Forced displacement greatly increases food insecurity and other protection risks. In

⁹ See source at footnote 8.

¹⁰ See source at footnote 8.

case of unavoidable displacement, the armed actor must mitigate the harm caused by it.¹¹ They could achieve this by making essential services and food assistance or food production available in the area to which civilians are displaced. They should incorporate this into strategies, operational planning, targeting processes, and training regarding the potential for, and risks associated with, the displacement of populations from operations. Civilians may choose to displace and should be allowed to do so.

- A requirement to protect and respect the natural environment.¹² A healthy natural environment is essential to sustainable food systems and food security. Policies should recognize that damaging or destroying resources such as water, soil, forests, natural fertilizers, and scarce food sources may force civilians to resort to coping mechanisms that could cause further environmental harm.
- A recognition of the value of regular proactive two-way communication with affected communities and civil society organizations and of their expertise in preventing and mitigating conflict-induced food insecurity. Such communication should actively involve women, girls, women-led organizations, and food security specialists, and should only be done where feasible and safe. Communication should include dialogue on risks to civilian populations—especially women, children, older people, minority and marginalized groups, and people with disabilities—and ways to mitigate food insecurity and related risks.

2.2 Humanitarian assistance policy

States and de facto authorities have the primary responsibility for ensuring that the basic needs, including adequate supplies of food and water, of populations under their control are met. Complementarily, armed actors should recognize the critical role that principled humanitarian assistance plays in supporting civilian's food security and their protection. Armed actors must facilitate the delivery of principled humanitarian assistance, including, but not limited to food assistance, to all affected populations.¹³ Set up a framework to coordinate and facilitate humanitarian action for that purpose. Ensure civil-military coordination mechanisms are established and strengthened to prevent and mitigate civilian harm, and to facilitate principled humanitarian assistance.

Armed actors must put in place and enforce policies that prohibit:¹⁴

¹¹ See ICRC, International Humanitarian Law Database, [Rule 129](#).

¹² See source at footnote 8; for further information, see ICRC (2020) [Guidelines on the Protection of the Natural Environment in Armed Conflict](#); and ICRC, [The protection of the natural environment in armed conflict](#).

¹³ See source at footnote 8.

¹⁴ See source at footnote 8.

- Confiscating, diverting, looting, or stealing humanitarian commodities, including agricultural inputs, food commodities, and ready-to-use therapeutic foods.
- Threatening or attacking humanitarian workers, operations, facilities, or supplies.
- Arbitrarily withholding consent for impartial humanitarian organizations to access conflict-affected civilians in need of humanitarian assistance.

2.3 Personnel: Resourcing and training

Armed actors should take all feasible steps to ensure that civilian-harm mitigation policies are well understood, implemented, and enforced. As such, armed actors should dedicate financial and human resources to training staff, developing operational policies, and implementing civilian-harm mitigation and response efforts. Every effort should be made to ensure that staff, according to their function, have full knowledge of their legal obligations, including but not limited to IHL,¹⁵ and are trained according to policies and procedures for minimizing and preventing civilian harm. This can be realized gradually through progressive training.

Additionally, staff could build capacity and expertise on anticipating how military operations and behavior of personnel might impact civilians in different environments and among different vulnerable communities, specifically in relation to food security. That will increase their ability to plan contingencies to avoid such an impact. Foreseeing such an impact will require building capacity to collect, track, and analyze the necessary information on civilian harm. To do this effectively, it is also recommended for planning and red-teaming staff to develop an understanding of:

- The interconnectedness of critical infrastructure and essential services in urban environments¹⁶ and how conflict, specifically the use of explosive weapons,¹⁷ impacts civilian harm and food security in this environment.
- The causes of displacement and migration and the effect of these on various populations, including displaced and host communities. Particular attention should be placed on understanding the protection risks these communities may face and which segments of the population are most vulnerable to them.
- The humanitarian system, mechanisms, and components and how they work in coordination with armed actors and authorities to respond to humanitarian needs.

¹⁵ See ICRC, International Humanitarian Law Database, [Rule 142](#).

¹⁶ See ICRC (2021), [Urban warfare: an age-old problem in need of new solutions](#); and ICRC (2023), [How can fighters reduce civilian harm in urban warfare?](#)

¹⁷ See ICRC (2022), [Explosive weapons: Civilians in populated areas must be protected](#).

2.4 Monitoring, learning, and applying lessons learned

Armed actors can only prevent and mitigate civilian harm, including conflict-induced food insecurity, when they understand the effects of their actions in the short- and long-term on the health and safety of civilians and what needs to be improved. This requires them to collect and analyze information and apply lessons learned. Armed actors should therefore:

- Develop or adapt civilian-harm-tracking mechanisms to support the collection and analysis of civilian-harm incidents related to food insecurity and caused by armed actors' presence and operations. These mechanisms should also collect and analyze the gendered dimensions of civilian harm and conflict-induced food insecurity.
- After every confrontation and operation, undertake post-battle civilian-harm assessments with an emphasis on understanding any direct and indirect impact on food security, including how different groups of civilians will experience this harm. This should include incorporating external information, such as civil society documentation, survivor and witness interviews, and site visits.
- Conduct lessons learned processes to improve operational planning and systematize good practices on avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating the effects of operations on food security.
- Incorporate lessons learned into training exercises and revising policies and procedures as necessary.
- Provide transparency around civilian-harm assessments and investigations, and close feedback loops with civil society and survivors.
- Undertake regular monitoring of the impact of policies and practice on marginalized and disempowered groups, particularly women and girls and people with disabilities.
- Participate in peer exchanges and build communities of practice at national, regional, and international levels, to share good practices and monitor implementation of the practical measures.

3 Considerations for planning and conducting operations

Throughout operational planning and implementation, armed actors should actively consider their potential impact on civilians, civilian assets, and food insecurity. Armed actors should avoid directly and indirectly causing or increasing food insecurity. When planning and conducting operations, the IHL obligations of distinction, proportionality, and precautionary measures must be applied,

including in the choice of weapons and means employed. Obligations enshrined in IHRL must also be applied when appropriate.¹⁸

3.1 Awareness of the civilian environment

Armed actors should be aware of the characteristics of the civilian population and the essential infrastructure, livelihood activities, organizations, personnel, resources, services, and systems on which civilians depend. This includes assessing food and water systems as part of the civilian environment in which operations occur. This information will enable them to estimate the impact of their operations on civilian food and water security, and how that affects different population groups. This includes, but is not limited to, information on:

- Crop planting and harvesting times.
- Market days and locations.
- Routes used for moving livestock.
- Climate risks and lingering effects of previous climate shocks that impact food security and may be worsened by conflict.
- Availability of food and ready-to-use therapeutic foods in a given context.
- Locations of infrastructure necessary for food production.
- Locations of food production, storage, processing, and distribution sites (including schools), as well as clinics for emergency treatment of malnourished adults and children.
- Locations of regularly used and emerging food distribution routes via air, land, and sea.
- Locations of humanitarian and development facilities, sites, and commonly used routes to facilitate passage and asset protection. The recording of these may be maximized by humanitarian notification systems.
- Regular dates and times of humanitarian and civil society food distributions, including during religious holidays such as Ramadan or Christmas.

3.2 Operational planning

Armed actors should prepare operational plans to minimize and respond to the foreseeable effects of their activities on food security and water supplies, considering the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautionary measures. These plans might consider:

- Timing and location of offensives to avoid interfering with food production or distribution, which is context specific.

¹⁸ See source at footnote 8.

- Choice of weapons, such as land mines, explosive weapons, cluster munitions, and autonomous weapons, with a full understanding of the specific ways each weapon type impacts the production and distribution of food. Do not use, under any circumstances, anti-personnel landmines or biological and chemical weapons.
- Minimizing and avoiding safety, security, and food access risks to all people—with a focus on women and girls, men and boys, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized or socially excluded vulnerable groups.
- Working with local authorities to coordinate and facilitate the safe movement of food and civilians' access to it, including through facilitating humanitarian aid and for vulnerable communities in affected areas.

3.3 Targeting

Do not target civilians or civilian objects and avoid incidental damage to civilian objects, including critical infrastructure and essential services, including, but not limited to:¹⁹

- Food processing facilities, such as bakeries, canning facilities, or mills.
- Food storage facilities, such as siloes or warehouses.
- Food transportation vehicles, such as ships, trains, and trucks.
- Food sale sites, such as markets or stores.
- Meal distribution facilities, such as religious sites and schools.
- Clinics for treating adults and children experiencing malnutrition.
- Other infrastructure required for food production, processing, and transport, such as ports, power plants, railway lines, roads, water systems, and water treatment centers.
- Agricultural and aquacultural facilities, and all physical instruments and constructions related to those activities, whether permanent or semi-permanent.
- Production and storage facilities for agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer, seeds, or tools
- Civilian real property (that is, agricultural or pastoral land).

Many of the things in this list are specially protected under IHL, including objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. As such, attacks or other acts against those things may be prohibited or restricted even if they are being used for military purposes in ways that might otherwise render them subject to direct attack. Objects on the list that are not specially protected

¹⁹ See source at footnote 8; see also ICRC, [Targeting under International Humanitarian Law](#).

retain general protections, per IHL rules on proportionality in attack and avoiding or minimizing incidental civilian harm.

Armed actors should establish a humanitarian notification system to identify locations of humanitarian and development facilities, sites, and commonly used routes to facilitate passage and asset protection.

3.4 Protecting land and water

Avoid staging operations from or onto agricultural land, food storage facilities, and other critical infrastructure for military purposes to avoid destruction by enemy fire.

Avoid contaminating arable land, fisheries, hunting grounds, pastoral lands, food transportation routes, or water resources with explosive remnants of war, mines, or any biological or chemical substance that would kill animals, fish, or plants or make them toxic for consumption. Armed actors should keep records of contaminated land and report them to environmental protection actors and humanitarian demining organizations.

3.5 Conscription

If implementing conscription during armed conflict, consider providing exceptions for those who work as farmers, fishers, pastoralists, or are otherwise involved in food production, processing, or distribution. Children must never be conscripted.²⁰

3.6 Looting

Strictly enforce the prohibition against looting civilian public and private property. Provide all units with sufficient food and financial means, so that they do not supplement their supplies with civilian property. Where possible, have units cultivate their own food. Purchase food from communities only when it will not strain their own supply and where it will not pose a security risk for civilians (for example, by labeling them as having supported the “enemy”).

3.7 Access to food, water, critical infrastructure, and essential services

Armed actors must facilitate the safe, rapid, and unimpeded access of affected people to food, water, critical infrastructure, and essential services, including humanitarian assistance and services.²¹

²⁰ See ICRC, [Child Soldiers](#).

²¹ See source at footnote 8.

- Do not confine civilians or otherwise restrict their freedom of movement. Do everything possible to avoid military presence in, and see that all civilians have safe and unimpeded access to:
 - Arable land for planting and harvesting.
 - Fisheries.
 - Food production and processing inputs, such as fertilizers.
 - Hunting and foraging areas.
 - Markets and other food distribution sites, including religious sites and schools where students receive free meals.
 - Nutrition clinics.
 - Pastoral lands.
 - Ports.
 - Water and fuel resources.
- Avoid providing security for civilians to access these locations unless civilians specifically request this. Before providing security, consult with the community to determine how best to implement such a measure without placing civilians at greater risk or adversely affecting their food security. Security should be provided free of cost whenever possible.
- Allow the timely, safe, unimpeded movement of civilians and food and water transports through checkpoints and border crossings—including protection from GBV and assault—so that they can safely access markets, wells and water collection points, food distribution sites, and nutrition assistance.
- Allow the timely, unimpeded movement of food into and out of ports and waterways.
- Avoid undue delays on any inspections of food, water, or humanitarian assistance that would result in damages to materials, goods, or transport, or be overly costly.
- Enter and uphold agreements on evacuations, humanitarian corridors, ceasefires, pauses, safe zones, etc. so that civilians can access food and nutrition services. This includes localized time-bound ceasefires or safe zones to allow trade corridors, food production sites, and markets to operate, thus allowing civilians to access food, infrastructure associated with food production, and other basic necessities.
- Avoid excessive taxation of or restrictions on agricultural inputs and foodstuffs, which would cause economic hardship and price inflation. Do not appropriate portions of food produced or processed.
- Allow and facilitate civilians, including those displaced, to cultivate their own food according to their preferences.

3.8 Humanitarian assistance and services

Armed actors must facilitate the safe, rapid, and unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance and services.²² As such, armed actors should:

- Avoid imposing restrictive bureaucratic and administrative measures that delay humanitarian or national and civil society organizations' efforts to provide food assistance to civilians.
- Avoid imposing restrictive measures that make any contact with certain groups or individuals illegal or which limit or impede the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians.
- Avoid requiring humanitarian actors to use armed escorts and convoys as a condition to granting access to affected populations.
- Avoid spreading misinformation and disinformation about humanitarian actors. This includes stating or implying that humanitarian actors are affiliated with an armed group or its political objectives, or claiming credit or responsibility for the assistance humanitarian actors deliver, as this can put humanitarian staff and programs at risk and jeopardize the entire response. Armed actors should monitor and address unintentionally untruthful information.

4 Partners and allies

The actions of an armed actor's partners and allied forces, including private military and security companies, can undermine an armed actor's own efforts to prevent and mitigate conflict-induced food insecurity, as well as damage their reputation. Therefore, armed actors should make every effort to ensure that partner and allied forces' policies and behaviors align with their own standards regarding preventing and mitigating civilian harm, particularly conflict-induced food insecurity. Consequently, armed actors should:

- Assess their partner's capacity and will to prevent, minimize, and mitigate harm to civilians during operations and to ensure they meet civilians' essential needs, particularly in terms of food security.
- Encourage partners to develop and enforce adequate policies and practices to respect international law relating to the protection of civilians and civilian objects, as well as preventing, mitigating, and addressing conflict-induced food insecurity.
- Establish formal and, where appropriate, informal agreements to define the scope, objective, responsibilities, and expectations of the partner/partnership. This should include a joint statement of principles and identify responsibilities to prevent, minimize, and mitigate civilian harm and food insecurity.

²² See source at footnote 8.

- Regularly communicate with partner forces on risks and trends associated with food insecurity caused by or occurring in the context of partnered operations as well as in partners' own operations. Incorporate considerations related to civilian-harm mitigation and food security into all relevant stages of communication with partner forces, including planning, procedures, monitoring, training, information sharing, mentoring, and dialogue with partner forces.
- Ensure that credible allegations of civilian harm, including causing food insecurity, by partners are investigated. If proven that the partner force is accountable, require them to halt such actions, and ensure amends or redress is made. Pay specific attention to ensuring partner forces do not attack, degrade, destroy, seize, or deny civilians access to food.

5 Addressing harm caused

Parties to armed conflicts should take all feasible steps to address the harm caused by their actions or omissions. They should do this in consultation with affected people to identify the best ways to address people's needs. Addressing harm caused should occur while conflicts are ongoing and continue to do so after the hostilities end. Food security may take a long time to improve, and efforts to reestablish it will necessarily extend beyond the conflict.

5.1 Increasing food security

States, de facto authorities, and parties to armed conflict have the primary responsibility to ensure that civilian's basic needs are met, including adequate supplies of food and water. Armed actors must provide or facilitate access to food, water, and essential services for the civilian population in areas under its control.²³ They should coordinate with affected communities and humanitarian aid organizations to do so, which may require them to:

- Provide food directly and/or facilitate humanitarian assistance to affected communities and supporting communities to reach that assistance. Food should never be exchanged for sexual favors.
- Facilitate humanitarian corridors, if needed.
- Facilitate the transportation of food across borders.
- Establish seed and food banks.
- Undertake special agreements with adversaries for humanitarian relief and the respect of IHL.
- Allow for displaced people to return to their lands.

²³ See source at footnote 8.

5.2 Ensuring accountability

Armed actors must hold themselves accountable to their legal obligations,²⁴ and should also hold themselves accountable to their own policies, as well as to the effects of their actions or omissions on the civilian population.

- Where post-battle assessments show that an armed actor has caused civilian harm, especially to food security, they should:
 - Acknowledge the harm. Discuss with the affected civilians and/or community the most appropriate ways to compensate for it. This could include efforts to restore livelihoods (especially as they relate to food production), replace or reconstruct damaged civilian property and infrastructure indispensable to the food cycle, and/or provide cash compensation.
 - Share information about that harm with relevant stakeholders involved in humanitarian operations so they can mitigate and respond to the immediate impact on food security. This includes providing information relevant to clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) from agricultural or pastoral lands, in fishing waters, or around food storage sites.
 - Allow mine and UXO marking, clearance, and risk education in all affected areas.
- If members of an armed force do not follow policies and procedures put in place to comply with IHL and to prevent and mitigate conflict-induced food insecurity, the armed force must undertake penal procedures compliant with international norms. This includes investigations, just processes and fair trials, and application of appropriate disciplinary action as clearly reflected in the organization's penal codes.

²⁴ See ICRC, International Humanitarian Law Database, [Rule 139](#) and [Rule 149](#).

6 Glossary

Armed actors: Include, but are not limited to, national or subnational government/de facto authorities' militaries or law enforcement groups, militias, organized armed gangs, international peacekeeping troops, non-state armed groups, and private military and security contractors.

Civilian: An individual not directly participating in armed conflict.

Civilian harm: All negative effects on civilian personal or community well-being caused by the use of force in hostilities, as well as actions taken by soldiers or units outside of combat. Effects can occur directly (death, physical or mental trauma, property damage) or indirectly through the destruction of critical infrastructure, disruption of access to basic needs and services, or the loss of livelihood.

Conflict-induced food insecurity: The intentional or unintentional consequences of armed conflict on food security and food systems.

Disinformation: False information that is intended to mislead, especially propaganda issued by a government organization to a rival power or the media.

Food production: The carrying out of one, several, or all the activities of cultivation, husbandry, harvesting, extraction, catching, primary processing, secondary processing, packaging, and preservation in order to make food.

Food processing: The transformation of raw or intermediate ingredients into food for human consumption.

Food storage: Suitable conditions to keep preserve food for future use.

Food system: The complex, interrelated network of activities related to the production, processing, transport, and consumption of food products, taking into account the political, economic, and environmental impacts of each activity in the system.

Food security: When all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Food security includes food availability, access to food, utilization of food, and stability of food security.

Food transportation: The process of moving food from producer to consumer.

Gender-based violence (GBV): An umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and is based on socially ascribed differences between males and females (that

is, gender). It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering, threats of such actions, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty.

Humanitarian notification systems: Systems designed to inform parties to a conflict of humanitarian static locations and movements of humanitarian staff and supplies to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian premises, personnel, and equipment, as well as the location of civilian objects with a humanitarian function and of critical civilian infrastructure, with a view to avoiding harm or impediments to them in areas of active military operations. Humanitarian notification does not change the IHL obligations of parties to the conflict.

Humanitarian principles: Four fundamental concepts—humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence—for humanitarian action. They are central to establishing and maintaining access and delivering humanitarian assistance to affected people, whether in a disaster or a complex emergency, such as armed conflict.

Misinformation: false information that is spread, regardless of intent to mislead.

Partner forces: Armed actors who have formally agreed to partner with one another to achieve specific military aims in a conflict.

Protection of civilians: The efforts of armed actors to prevent and mitigate the threats of violence, coercion, and deliberate deprivation experienced by civilians, notably through respecting IHL, applicable human rights law, refugee law, and other normative frameworks.

Right to food: The entitlement of all people to regular, permanent, and unrestricted access, either directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food corresponding to the cultural traditions of people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensures a physical and mental, individual, and collective fulfilling and dignified life free of fear.

Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF): An energy- and nutrient-dense food item, specifically used to treat severe wasting in children under 5 years.