



**World Food  
Programme**

*Fighting Hunger Worldwide*

**LUNCH SEMINAR:**  
**World Food Programme and Agriculture Export  
Restrictions**

**Exploring the World Food Programme's experience during the 2008 food  
crisis and the way forward to MC 11**

*Speaker: Ms. Gordana Jerger, Director, WFP Geneva Office*

*Moderator: Ambassador Tan Yee Woan, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Republic of Singapore*

*17 October 2017, 1:15pm, Room S3*

# WHY WFP?

**1** **Prioritizes support to national efforts to implement SDGs**  
(SDG2, SDG17)

**2** **US\$ 5bn food assistance portfolio serving 80 million people in 80 countries**

**3** **Accounts for majority of global food aid deliveries**

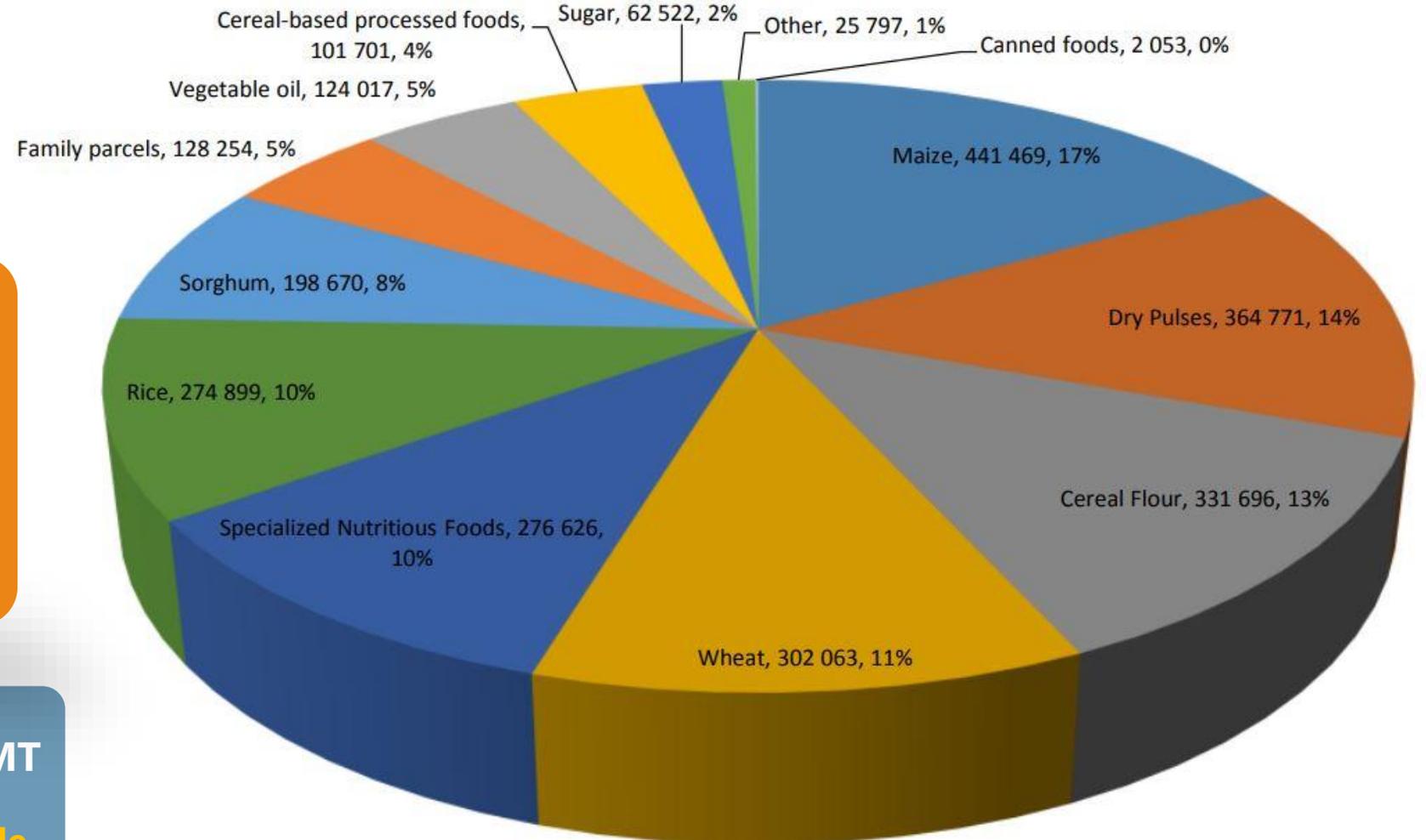
**WFP Direct Expenditure**  
*(2014-2016 average, %)*

- 54%** Sub-Saharan Africa
- 32%** North Africa, Middle East & CIS
- 11%** Asia & Pacific
- 3%** Latin America & Caribbean

# WFP FOOD PROCUREMENT, 1995-2016



# WFP FOOD PROCUREMENT, 2016 (MT & %)



**2.6 million MT - US\$ 1.4bn**  
3/4 in developing countries  
21% in LDCs

**CEREALS: 63% - 1.5 million MT**  
Equivalent to 0.4% of world trade



# STEPPING UP AS WORLD HUNGER IS AGAIN ON THE RISE

SDG 2: end hunger by 2030



Sustainable agriculture and food systems



Stable food supplies  
Access to adequate nutrition and health



More open, transparent and well-functioning global agricultural market

SDG 2 **calls for an end to trade restrictions** and distortions in world agricultural markets

# IMPACT OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS ON WFP

## MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRY For Syria & Iraq

- Export ban on rice
- Optimal in terms of logistics / timing, type of rice and preference of recipients
- Instead: long supply chain from a South Asian country and a different quality of rice
- Consequences: long lead time; losses due to water damage and infestation during transit; cleaning and repackaging costs
- Impact: estimated increase in cost of US\$600,000 per month at the peak

## SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRY For Malawi, Zimbabwe, others

- *De facto* export ban on maize meal during El Niño crisis
- Required sustained engagement with Government at highest levels and careful planning of procurement in tranches up to 100,000 MT (some 3% of average annual maize production)
- Significance: ability to supply non-GMO maize meal to neighbors
- Impact: time

## EAST AFRICAN COUNTRY For Uganda and neighbors

- Export ban on maize (non-GMO)
- Instead: procurement further away from a Southern African country and, occasionally, from Mexico
- Consequences: higher cost of procurement; 2-3 times longer delivery time; less availability of non-GMO maize as food assistance for countries in the region
- Impact: at least 3.9 million meals lost

## CONCLUSIONS & TAKE AWAYS

- **20 million people are facing starvation in 2017;**
- number of food-insecure people **increased to 815 million**, first time after the 2008 crises;
- Achieving **SDG2 by 2030=?**
  
- Need for effective food assistance stronger now than at any time in recent history.
- Trade should result in enhanced food security.
  
- Today, **export restrictions** including export bans on foodstuff, continue engendering **significant inefficiencies** in humanitarian food assistance delivery.

A multilateral agreement “not to impose export prohibitions or restrictions on foodstuff purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme”, would have sizable benefits as it would :

- Prevent the imposition of additional commodity, transport and transaction costs on food assistance for humanitarian purposes;
- Allow to reach more vulnerable people with food assistance;
- Ensure timely delivery when food is needed the most, but hardest to access;
- Minimize food losses;
- Enable economies of scale as purchases could be optimized and transport corridors and port congestions avoided;
- Help ensure stable food supply to the most vulnerable;
- Stretch the taxpayers’ money;
- At times, literally save lives.

The impact on volumes traded and market prices would be marginal.