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News: Hunger Hotspots

- According to a recent Report by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Program (WFP) Hunger Hotspots – FAO–WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity, India's neighbors, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Myanmar, are among the hunger hotspots in the world.

Highlights of the Report

Hot Spots with Very High Concern

- There are 18 areas in 22 countries where acute Food Insecurity may increase in magnitude and severity.
- Pakistan, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Syrian Arab Republic are hotspots with very high concern.
- All these hotspots have a high number of people facing critical acute food insecurity, coupled with worsening drivers that are expected to further intensify life-threatening conditions in the coming months.

Countries at Highest Concern Level

- **Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen remain** at the highest concern level.
- **Haiti, the Sahel (Burkina Faso and Mali) and the Sudan have been elevated to the highest concern levels;** this is due to severe movement restrictions of people and goods in Haiti, as well as in Burkina Faso and Mali, and the recent eruption of Conflict in Sudan.

Expected to Face Starvation

- All the **hotspots at the highest level have populations facing or projected to face starvation, or are at risk of deterioration towards catastrophic conditions,** given they already have critical food insecurity and are facing severe aggravating factors.

New Emerging Conflicts

- **New emerging conflicts, in particular the eruption of conflict in the Sudan, will likely drive global conflict trends and impact several neighbouring countries.**
- The use of explosive ordnance and siege tactics in several hunger hotspots continues to push people into catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity.

- Weather Extremes
- Weather extremes, such as heavy rains, tropical storms, Cyclones, Flooding, Drought and increased climate variability, remain significant drivers in some countries and regions.
- The May 2023 forecast suggests an 82% likelihood of El Niño conditions starting in the May–July 2023 period, with significant implications for several hunger hotspots.

Economic Shocks

- Deepening economic shocks continue to drive low and middle income nations deeper into crisis.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.
- The FAO is composed of 197 member states. India is a founding member.
- It is headquartered in Rome, Italy, and maintains regional and field offices around the world, operating in over 130 countries.

- FAO also acts as the secretariat of Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and that of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).
- It helps governments and development agencies coordinate their activities to improve and develop agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and land and water resources. It also conducts research, provides technical assistance to projects, operates educational and training programs, and collects data on agricultural output, production, and development.
- The FAO is governed by a biennial conference representing each member country and the European Union, which elects a 49-member executive council.
- State of World's Forest is a biennial flagship report published by FAO.
- India has released a 75 rupee coin in 2020 in commemoration with the 75th year of FAO with the theme "A country will shine if the nutrition is correct".
- The Country Program Framework prepared by FAO India in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is aligned with our national priorities and has a much required multi sectoral approach.
- Flagship publications of FAO include State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), State of World's Forests (SOFO).
- The Food Price Index is a measure of the monthly change in the international prices of a basket of food commodities. It is published by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

- Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is the **joint collaboration of FAO and WHO.**

Days Implemented by FAO

- The International Day of Forests (21st March every year) is implemented by **Secretariat of UN Forum on Forests & Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).**
- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in partnership with **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, implements the **World Food Safety Day** on June 7th of every year on behalf of UNGA.
- World Food Day is celebrated to **commemorate the establishment of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** on **16th October 1945.**
- Food and Agricultural Organisation implements the **World Soil Day (5th December** every year) on behalf of UNGA.
- **GloLitter Partnerships Project** is launched by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations (FAO) with initial funding from the **Government of Norway.**
- Recently, FAO along with **Arbor Day Foundation** has awarded **Hyderabad** with **Tree City of the world.** (Current Affairs)

FAO has identified 5 key priority areas:

- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry, and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

FAO in India

- **Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Sustainable Mountain Development in the Indian Himalayan Region.**
- Promoting **Nutrition Education and Communication** in India.
- Strengthening Agriculture and Allied Sector Contributions to **India`s National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2008** and the **National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs)**.
- Technical Assistance to Farmer Water School Programme and Agricultural Activities under the **Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project (UPWSRP), Phase- II.**
- Support to the implementation of **Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Regional Observer Scheme.**

- Implementing the **Monitoring and Analyzing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) Programme** in India.