

WORLD FOOD ASSISTANCE 2017

Global Conversation with Steven Were Omamo (WFP)



The Coordinator of Food Systems Strategy Steven Were Omamo made a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics and a post-doctoral fellowship at the Food Research Institute. He is currently a Senior Research Fellow and Program Leader for Agricultural Science and Technology Policy at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC.

On October the 11th, Mr. Omamo came to Global Governance to introduce the program of helping people who still suffer from hunger. He started explaining that this program is different from what people think, in fact, is not just a delivery of a package of food but rather a combination of instruments, objectives and programs, supportive activities and platforms. There is an important question about the research, that the organization had managed, that we have to mention: "What are the levels, trends and patterns of food assistance at global, regional and national levels?", and discovered that the food assistance depends on the intersection of humanitarian action and hunger reduction.

Then he started to clarify which are the instruments of this program, presenting us that from 2009 the food organization started delivering cash transfer, physical and digital, voucher and cash voucher rather than "real food" and helping this population means that the association can improve nutrition, increase resilience, agricultural productivity, school enrollment, disaster risk reduction and gender equality. Talking about the help, not all the populations receive one: to understand which countries have to receive the assistance the researcher has to know where the populations are with mapping them and discover what they need.

At the end of the conversation, Mr. Omamo has allowed us to ask him some questions. One of the most important regarded the countries in which there are wars or in which the government has forbidden the access to this type of assistance, like in Syria; he explained to us that in this complicate situations, they use the airdrop method and tries to work with local associations. Another important question regarded the quality of the food in terms of provenance and health, and to answer this question he told us that there is a unit composed of researchers, nutritionists, scientists, agriculture economists whose task is to choose the best food and involve local companies in order to sell better quality food.

We think it was a great luck that Mr. Steven Were Omamo comes to our school for a lecture. Our classmates have benefited greatly. After this speech, we understood the importance of not wasting food and know that there are still a lot of people suffering from hunger. Thanks to the ambassador for bringing us a fun lesson.

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