

## Global Governance off-campus activity at World Food Programme (WFP)



On March 17th, 2017, we had the chance to visit the headquarter of World Food Programme, an organization affiliated with UN in order to provide humanitarian and food assistance in over eighty countries worldwide.

We were kindly welcomed by Emanuela Cutelli, from the Communications Division, who started an introduction on the history and scopes of the organization.

We discussed about the food emergencies that the world is currently facing: Syria, Iraq, North Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen.

After the brief introduction, the floor was given to Fabio Bedini, one of the Programme Advisers, who stressed the key-role of climate change in the most hazardous disasters that affect developing countries. Emergencies are not fully related to food, but also to climate change and its impacts since most countries are continuously affected by natural hazards.

When people loose their assets they are more vulnerable to further injuries as climate-related disasters are likely to reduce the amount of available outputs.

Floods and droughts represent the most significant hazards faced by those countries. As a matter of fact, WFP has been acting several times in the same areas because they are repeatedly hit, thus further damaging the already complicated situation.

As WFP is an emergency organization, volunteers only act when it is required by countries in need. Raffaella Policastro did explain to us the strategies to intervene and how important it is the cooperation among governments to overcome harsh situations.

It is better to improve risk management than disaster management because governments should be aware that good prevention and preparedness are easier and cheaper than rebuilding the damaged infrastructure. We focused on the importance of insurance as a tool of monitoring the situation and forecasting future events.

But how to deal with countries that have corrupted government?

WFP has to act careful when it is decided to intervene in a country; the organization must take into account domestic policies of the interested state and the needs of population.

WFP provides help in terms of cash and voucher, it does not just deliver food, that is why the organization possesses an efficient structure to set objectives and standards, and the various strategies to implement them.

After that, Lauren Lepage and Leighla Bowers gave a rapid overview on the topic of supply chain, the backbone of WFP, and the importance to have a strong and effective decision-making process to provide the best possible help in case of emergencies.

As the organization is voluntary founded, all profit is available to alleviate human suffering. Needless to say, corruption is fought daily in order to ensure the proper allocation of the collected resources. Moreover, WFP must collaborate with cooperative parties (locally or not) to distribute such resources. Priorities are the harshest emergencies.

Before ending the visit, we focused on Sustainable Development Goals and how the international community must cooperate to reach such objectives in order to build resilience and improve the quality of life of every human being.

Izabela Diana Ihnatiuc & Riccardo Santini