

Speaker's manuscript – Peace Prize 2020 World Food Programme (WFP)

The Nobel Peace Prize

- The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five prizes founded by Alfred Nobel and awarded on 10 December every year.
- Before Nobel died on 10 December 1896, he wrote in his will that the largest part of his fortune should be used to fund a prize to those who "have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind".
- One of the five prizes should go "to the person who has done the most or best to advance fellowship among nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and the establishment and promotion of peace congresses".



Who is rewarded with the Peace Prize?

- In 1901 the first Peace Prize was awarded to Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross. Right from the start, the Norwegian Nobel Committee thus adopted a broad interpretation of the peace concept; humanitarian work is also a way of promoting peace.
- The prize can go to individuals and organisations that fight for disarmament, conflict resolution and human rights.
- One example of a Laureate in recent years is Malala Yousafzai (2014), who was rewarded for her struggle for the equal right of all children to education.



2020 Peace Laureate

- The 2020 Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP).
- The WFP is awarded the prize for its efforts to combat hunger and starvation throughout the world, but also for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas. The organisation is a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.



Supports 100 million people in more than 80 countries

- The World Food Programme is a branch of the United Nations and was founded in 1961.
- It is the world's leading humanitarian organisation working to eliminate hunger and achieve food security. In 2019, the organisation supported almost 100 million people in 88 countries. The WFP works to supply food to people who are living in areas that are affected by conflict or have been struck by natural disasters.
- Two-thirds of the organisation's efforts target conflict-affected countries.



End hunger – a global goal

- Eradicating hunger is one of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015.
- In recent years, however, the situation has been trending in the wrong direction. In 2019, 135 million people suffered from acute hunger, the highest number in many years. Most of the increase was caused by war and armed conflict.
- The WFP is the United Nation's most important arm in the effort to eliminate hunger and achieve food security.



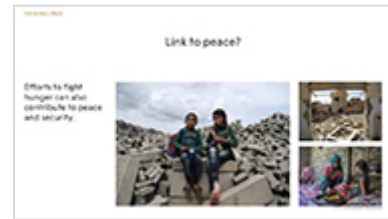
The coronavirus pandemic exacerbates the situation

- The coronavirus pandemic has contributed to a strong upsurge in the number victims of hunger in the world.
- In countries such as Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan and Burkina Faso, the combination of violent conflict and the pandemic has led to a dramatic rise in the number of people living on the brink of starvation.
- During the coronavirus pandemic, the WFP has increased its efforts and intensified its work to help vulnerable populations.



Link to peace?

- There is a powerful connection between starvation and armed conflict. War and conflict can cause food insecurity and hunger, while food insecurity and hunger can in turn precipitate armed conflicts. This creates a vicious circle.
- Therefore we will never achieve the goal of zero hunger unless we also put an end to war and armed conflict.
- The humanitarian work WFP is doing doesn't just combat hunger and starvation; it can also contribute to peace and security.



Resolution 2417

- The WFP played an active role in the diplomatic process that led to the adoption of Resolution 2417 by the United Nations Security Council in May 2018.
- In adopting the resolution, the UN established the link between hunger and armed conflict.
- The UN Security Council underscores that it is every Member State's obligation to help ensure that food assistance reaches those in need, and at the same time it condemns the use of starvation as a method of warfare.



“Hunger is used as a weapon.”

- In an interview given in conjunction with the announcement of the Peace Prize, Norwegian Nobel Committee Chair Berit Reiss-Andersen described the link between hunger and conflict. According to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, the WFP has made a strong contribution towards mobilising UN Member States to combat the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.

