

**FAO Statement No.3 (Agenda Item 15.3 Global Health for Peace Initiative) -
SEVENTY-SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY¹**

21–30 May 2023

- Thanks to WHO for giving FAO the floor to make this statement on the Global Health for Peace Initiative.
- By 2030, it is estimated that more than half of all people living in poverty will be found in countries affected by high levels of violence. These conflict dynamics have a negative impact on households' food security and health.
- Health, conflict and peace are closely interconnected, and both animal and human health interventions can serve as pathways to improve the prospects for community-level peace.
- FAO's humanitarian and development support to countries addresses community engagement, including animal health programmes as an entry point to support dialogue and peace between different groups in remote and challenging contexts.
- Healthy animals and a healthy environment are the basis for agrifood systems transformation to improve food safety, food security and nutrition and address some of the drivers of disease emergence and potential pandemics.
- Training of youth communities in conflict settings including through farmer and pastoralist field schools and community Animal Health Workers from different groups improves dialogue, understanding, develops empathy and forges relationships between youth who are often subject to social pressures to cattle raid or participate in revenge violence.
- And mass vaccination campaigns - both animal and human - involve constructive engagement between people, community leaders and government authorities to ensure that there is no insecurity during the lead-up to and during the vaccination campaign itself.
- The GHPI acknowledges WHO's existing contributions to peace outcomes at the community level, while aiming to improve and strengthen this work; it is aligned with FAO's own approaches to the centrality of conflict-sensitivity.
- FAO appreciates that the health for peace approach, as with FAO's work on contributing to peace, is meant to contribute to WHO's programme delivery on its "health for all" mandate through increased conflict sensitivity and by contributing, where appropriate, to peace outcomes in collaboration with national and international stakeholders.
- WHO and FAO collaboration - if peace and conflict sensitive – will mitigate the risk of doing unintentional harm to peace and conflict dynamics and populations living in complex and fragile settings, promoting health community-based approaches. Moreover, if appropriate peace outcomes are sought where it is safe and feasible to do so, it will create more space for healthcare delivery to marginalized communities.

¹ Theme: WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all

- FAO welcomes WHO's Global Health for Peace Initiative (GHPI) and the associated Roadmap presented here today, which has been developed through a broad consultative process.
- Noting the GHPI workstream on partnerships, FAO looks forward to continuing working closely with WHO, including how we can align our respective Organizational commitments to conflict-sensitivity and peace-responsiveness through programming, building on and enhancing existing collaboration on One Health approach and implementation in conflict and fragile settings.
- Thank-you.