

HUNGER, CONFLICT, AND PEACE

Panel Moderator: *Liz Schraye*r

October 17, 2018 - 1:15 p.m.

Introduction

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn

President - World Food Prize Foundation

And now I want to invite Liz Schraye, who will be chairing our next panel on the subject of *Hunger, Conflict and Peace*. And she's bringing her panel members with her, and she will introduce them. But I just have to say a few words about Liz. I view Liz as the single-most impactful person I have ever interacted with in terms of influencing events in Washington from outside the government. She is a force, and she has assembled at the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition this amazing group of several hundred generals and admirals, former ambassadors. She's got an organization in every state. She's got the most prominent people working with her, and no one can say "no" to her, and she has the issue of U.S. American international engagement, including on all the issues we are going to address and, most significantly to me, it's at the intersection of conflict and peace and food security and national security. Liz, thank you for doing this. Thank you for putting this wonderful panel together. Over to you.

Panel Members

Amb. Michael Klosson Vice President, Policy and Humanitarian Response, Save the Children
Nancy Lindborg President, U.S. Institute of Peace
Lt. General Kip Ward President and Chief Operating Officer, SENTEL Corporation

Panel Moderator

Liz Schraye

President & CEO, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition

Thank you, Ambassador Quinn. I can't say "no" to you, and I should have come the last 17 years, after that introduction. I am absolutely thrilled to be here. This is an extraordinary event to bring this crowd of thought leaders, practitioners together, to *rise to the challenge*. And how stirring it is to take a look at the question of—How do we feed the world, 9 billion people by 2015, and are we ready to *rise to the challenge*? And our topic is not an easy topic. Ken gave us the topic: *Hunger, Conflict, and Peace*. And thank goodness, I have the three people to my left to help figure out this question.

Now, we're going to get to peace, but I want to just throw out a couple facts for everybody to get around their head about the nexus of hunger and conflict – hunger, conflict, and peace – so we can really dig into this conference.

If we had been sitting here ten years ago, the global food prices spiked, and it created riots in nearly 40 countries. Sitting here today, we have this alarming rise in global hunger for the first time in years, after we had seen global hunger go down dating back to the Green Revolution. Today we're sitting in a moment where we know the facts, all of you in this room – 120 million people go to bed hungry every day, and within that number 30 million, 30 million are at risk of famine. Where are those people living? They're largely in four countries, all four countries who are sadly, sadly leaving in countries there largely because of manmade conflict. So no wonder we're looking at the question of hunger and conflict.

And one more stat to leave in your mind is this statistic that my friend, Nancy Lindborg always reminds me: If we were again sitting here ten years ago, if we were looking at U.S. assistance, humanitarian assistance, 80% of our humanitarian assistance would have been going to natural disasters, responding to natural disasters, 20% to conflict areas. But today, our U.S. humanitarian assistance, 80% is going to relieve conflict areas. So this issue of the nexus of conflict and hunger is really right where the world is happening.

So let me introduce our panel so you know who is going to help us unravel it. Nancy Lindborg sitting in the middle. You know which one is Nancy probably. And just so you know – what do I have to do this? – a general, a diplomat and a development expert. How smart is this, to have these three. So Nancy Lindborg is the development expert. She has had a career in the space of really one of the world premiers of understanding fragility and conflict in her government hat when she was in government. I'm not going to go through her whole bio, but two points to know about: She was the top player at USAID, dealing at the DCHA Bureau, Democracy... (I'm going to get this right) Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance. And today is the president of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

Our diplomat today is Ambassador Michael Klosson. He's served most of his career as a Foreign Service officer – too many places in the world to tell you about – but ended as ambassador to Cypress and today is here as the Vice President in Policy and Humanitarian Response at Save the Children.

And our general, 40 years in the military, again too many places to tell you about, but his last post was as the first combatant Commander setting up AFRICOM, U.S. AFRICOM. So welcome, General Kip Ward.

So with that, I'm going to start with, of the three words we have, *Conflict*. And of course, General Ward, the first question is going to go to you. I work with you on the USGLC with over 200 retired three- and four-star generals and admirals; you are among them. And one of the things you have taught me is that generals and admirals are the most voiceful players on the world stage who say the threats in the world today are not military solutions alone. And you have gone with me to Capitol Hill to say that we have to respond, investing, and not investing in development and diplomacy. So one of the things I want to understand is – When you were setting up AFRICOM, when you were there, how did you see the conflict and the threats of hunger in your strategy at AFRICOM? Welcome.

Lt. General Kip Ward

Well, thank you, and I add my thanks to the organizers, Ambassador Quinn, for including me in this program, which has such relevance in today's environment, given where we are as a global community.

The task at hand when we established the U.S. Africa Command was to do what we could to help our friends on the Continent of Africa create for themselves and for the global community a more stable environment. And one of the major drivers of instability on the continent, and in other places as well, is the issue of food insecurity and what could be done to increase food security – because those conditions, left to go unchecked, create a conflict among neighbors, among nations, among tribes. And what seemingly could have been something resolved at a very early stage turned into something that was immensely difficult to solve, because it had grown so complex, as it could have been stopped early on in its condition set.

Food, agriculture, tied with water, those sorts of things cause human beings, globally... We talked about Africa, but I've served around the world – Europe, Asia, South America – and that requirement to be able to feed your children, to feed your aging parents in a nutritional way is a driver that motivates women and men globally. It's better if it can be done in a positive way. If not, then it will result in things that are dissatisfying to our national security structure, that are destabilizing to our national security interests and impact the ability of nations globally to work in a way that causes us to share the precious resources of our world.

As a soldier for over 40 years, I was typically called to go to a place when it had gone south, so to speak, when conditions had deteriorated such that we were in a conflict scenario where no one was winning. My soldiers who were in those, and sailors, airmen and Marines who were there, ran the risk of losing their life. It came as a huge cost to our national treasures because of how much we had to spend to deploy the train. But importantly, it came at a huge cost to the impact of people and as such led to their further instability, that led to conditions that we see today.

And so as we built U.S. Africa Command, one of our central tenets was – How do we help create conditions, not to do the work for our friends, but to cause what we do to support their efforts to be more food stable, to be more food independent so they could feed their people, and take away that potential such that it would then lead to other destabilizing impacts among the global commons, which had an impact on our national security.

Liz Schrayner

And that is a perfect jumping-off point to get to Nancy. Nancy, you are one of the premier voices to understand fragility – USIP just today, a really powerful bipartisan report, looking at what the underlying causes are of conflict, of fragility. And one of the statistics we've been talking about, this, the whole theme the conference is looking at – what happens in 2050 when 9 billion, 10 billion people live on this planet. But one of the other things that's going to happen in 2050 is something that was in the report, which is half the world's poor are going to be living in conflict areas. So talk about – if we're going to try to solve world poverty, if we're going to talk about world hunger, we have to deal with fragility. So where do fragility and hunger intersect? How do you see that?

Nancy Lindborg

Great, thank you, Liz. And again let me add my congratulations to Ambassador Quinn, and thank you for sharing the stories of Governor Ray. I think we all need that kind of inspiration in our lives right now.

On this issue of fragility: First of all, fragility, let's remember what it is. It is fundamentally when a government is not responsive to the needs of its people – that social compact is frayed or broken down, and it can be lack of capacity or outright repression. And when Liz talked about those four countries that have been teetering in and out of famine for the last four or five years, all four of those countries – Somalia, Yemen, Northeast Nigeria, and South Sudan – are deeply characterized by fragmented societies and by governments that do not prioritize the needs of their citizens. They are not delivering, and people don't feel like they have a voice and a choice.

And so when you think about hunger and conflict, we have to be thinking about – What are the government structures? And having spent 25 years on the frontlines of a lot of these different conflict areas, what we see is that years of investment in health, education, agriculture is overturned during a conflict. So to have that kind of development progress sustained, it's essential that we think about how to build peace. And to build peace, you need to engage the kind of structures that enable a more successful agreement between citizenry and their governments.

And just, you know, we see every day the terrible situation in Syria, and I would remind you that for the five years before the Arab Spring, Syria experienced a terrible drought – 75% of the farms failed, livestock was wiped out – and then the riots that Liz referred to in 2008. Prices were spiking on essential food items and on livestock feed. And at that point in Syria's history, 1.5 million people left the farms and moved to the urban areas; and that set the stage for the kind of unrest that led to the riots that were quickly overtaken by armed actors. And we've seen what has happened since then.

So as we think about getting to the roots of this, it has moved 80% to conflict-affected victims, but it's deeply intertwined with the increasing tempo of draughts, of natural disasters, the lack of governments' and countries' and communities' ability to respond to disagreements, to the shocks of climate impacts and the inability to manage those shocks without dissolving into conflict.

And so this is the critical challenge that we need to address, especially as we look at the demographic pressures and what we're looking ahead as there will be more and more people, greater impact on our food systems, this is what we need to embrace with vigor if we want to *rise to the challenge*.

Liz Schroyer

I'm going to come back to you on what we can do about it, but let me get Michael into the conversation. Save the Children is literally on the frontline of the conflict of hunger in a lot of the places that Nancy and General Ward are already talking about. Thirty million, these thirty million people that are at risk of famine – you're dealing with a lot of the most vulnerable, the children. You were just in, I believe, South Sudan where two-thirds of the population are at risk of starvation. So give us – as sad and as frightening as this is – a bird's eye look. What is

happening on the ground when you went into South Sudan and saw when conflict and hunger meetup?

Ambassador Michael Klosson

Thanks, and it's great to be here with my Foreign Service colleague, Ken Quinn, and I was also struck the variety of perspectives that are represented in this rooms, because I think the issues we're talking about really require all these different viewpoints to be brought to bear. And out of that I think perhaps some new thinking can come about.

So as Liz was saying, I mean, Save the Children is on the frontlines of many of the toughest places in the world to be a child. And this sort of toxic combination of hunger and conflict is really robbing a lot of children of their childhoods if not their lives. And we actually did a calculation looking out at the ten worst conflicts in the world, including South Sudan. And we're projecting, if nothing changes, that by the end of the year it's very likely that 600,000 kids will die because they'll miss treatment as a result of hunger.

So it's really graphic. I've visited... I mean, South Sudan is one of the places that I've been to. And on the one hand, it's gut-wrenching when you're seeing these families in such distress. It's really tough; it's life-changing. But at the same time, how you see people dealing with this is really quite inspiring, and the topic or the theme for this conference is *Rise to the Challenge*. I mean, when I'm in South Sudan, in Eastern Equatoria, or if I'm at Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, I'm seeing people *rise to the challenge*, and you come away with a real sense of inspiration. These folks that are in kind of this situation are not throwing in the towel and giving up. So it's really... The support that the U.S. Government provides in terms of assistance, the work that a lot of nonprofits like Save the Children are able to do – it's really providing practical assistance to people, and it really makes a difference, and it's appreciated. So it's hugely important.

What I saw was kids in a lot of distress. They're out of school. Their bodies are showing the signs of malnutrition, stunting, or in some cases wasting. And what we're able to do is... But the good news is that we were seeing at the local level, particularly in Eastern Equatoria the county-level governments – many of the staff haven't paid for six months, a year when I was there earlier this year. But nevertheless they're on the job, and they're really trying to help out their kids. And so you really get a sense of we're investing. We're not coming in to save somebody else – we're in there as a partnership to work with folks at the ground level. And it's a partnership where we can bring expertise. And you have the political will on the part of certainly the local government folks. So I think there's a lot more to do. I have some thoughts on what need to happen, but I guess we're coming to that in a little bit.

Liz Let's shift a little bit. So hunger, conflict, peace. So let's try to bring in the peace part. Nancy, your title of your organization is U.S. Institute of Peace, so let's talk about what we can do. And I want to pick up on another conflict region we haven't hit on yet. And Madam Vice President, I'm going to turn to your region. We were talking about it at lunch today, and talk about the conflict in Venezuela. And I saw some statistics that were stunning to me, that the average Venezuelan according to statistics has lost 24 pounds because of the lack of food or the crisis going on. There was a poll that said 60% have said that they have not had money to buy food. But the challenge is that it is affecting the whole region, and it's affecting peace challenges in

neighboring regions. So talk about how – using that as a window, what is happening in the region in Latin America – how do we get to peace, just looking at that as an example?

Nancy Well...

Liz And that's a hard one. I picked them all hard. I didn't pick easy ones for you.

Nancy The challenge obviously is we're seeing this increase of these kinds of conflicts that are the result of fragile states that are often exacerbated by regional and international interference. But in Venezuela – I think all of us have seen the news – you have a middle-income country that has been driven to the brink of ruin with enormous numbers of people who are pushed to the brink of starvation. Many of them are leaving the country, putting great pressures on the neighboring countries.

And the U.S. Institute of Peace has spent a decade supporting a peace process that is still in a very delicate stage. As that country climbs out of 50 years of conflict, teetering on the brink of peace, it is now threatened by the Venezuela conflict, both because of the flood of refugees across the border but also because of Venezuela's support for the remnants of the militias inside Colombia. So what you see are how all of these issues intertwine, and they have impact on the citizens of the country in conflict, of the country, of the region. And ultimately if you look at some of the migration and the fleeing of people across the border into our country, it becomes a much broader set of difficult issues.

Liz So on the peace question, I'm going to ask a tough question to you, General Ward. The head of the World Food Program is former Governor David Beasley. He's wonderful. I think you've hosted him here before. And he talked about food is a weapon being used by recruitment of terrorists. And I'm going to read you a quote from him, and I want you to answer – How do we get to peace, given this? And this is what he said. He said, "What ISIS is now doing is coming into an already-fragile area, a very destabilized area because of climate impact and governance, and they're infiltrating, recruiting, using food as a weapon of recruitment to destabilize so they can have mass migration into Europe."

So, you know, this is his view. He's running the World Food Program, and this is his view of how he's seeing a terrorist organization using food as a weapon. And so what's the answer? How do we combat that? How do we combat it and really get to that goal, which is peace.

Ward That is a great question to ask, and we could write a book about how to combat it, so I'll do my best, because Liz will...

Liz You don't have a book. You only have a couple minutes, because I want to get to group questions.

Ward Two things, let me say. Firstly, when food is provided in bulk-type forms and it's distributed, we know that there are transparency issues, accountability issues; and so therefore it doesn't always get to where it needs to be. And those who have control

of that have the ability to dictate where it goes, and as such they tend to use it as a weapon that will create other unstable conditions.

Quick example: Teammates. In 2009 I'm in Ghana, and I'm at a small co-op with a Ghanaian lady and her five children who needed to increase the yield from their little plot of ground so that she could raise enough food to feed her children. I had a young sergeant, who was an engineer that knew a little about irrigation, help her create an irrigation system so that she could raise enough food to feed her children without the threat of some rogue actor coming in and influencing not just her but her young sons who are most susceptible to being taken in, recruited by these organizations or groups that would then do nefarious things. Because of those actions, not only could she feed her children and keep them healthy, she could raise enough product to sell so that she could then buy clothes to send her children to school for education. And as opposed to she and her family being refugees, they were stabilized right there where they are; and, as a part of that she was able to bring it to her little co-op, three other families to do the same thing. That helped to create stability that is sustainable and not being controlled by others, such that she was not contributing, nor were her sons, and in some cases, daughters, contributing to those things that would then have impact on us here at home in the United States of America, in Europe or wherever. And so when we pay attention to those sorts of things, we reduce the impact of those destabilizing factors that they would have on those who would use food as a weapon for purposes not supporting anyone's interest, let alone our national interest.

Liz Thank you. Question for Michael, and, Nancy, you might have a thought about this, too. I am going to open up to questions in just a moment. But one of the real challenges that we've seen in some of these conflict areas is access — is that we have a will, but the warring parties in places like Yemen, Syria, you mentioned as well, actively prevent assistance from even getting into the country. So here we have a country like Yemen. They're on the brink of the worst famine in a hundred years. I had read yesterday the number actually went up to now 14 million people at the risk of starvation, which includes 5 million children. So you have been a diplomat most of your life. You worked in government as well. How do we take the diplomatic community, the military community and their pressure to get our humanitarian assistance in? So, Michael, if you can kick it off, and again, Nancy, you might have some comments as well.

Michael Sure, so I mean Yemen really is a poster child for this toxic combination of hunger and conflict. And as Liz was saying, it's on the brink of maybe the worst famine in a century, so it's really dire, and there's a couple of components to that. Part of it is that the warring parties have been attacking some of the infrastructure, so the food-producing infrastructure, the water, so that puts people at risk. Part of it is this issue of access, whether it's through the main port in Hodeidah or getting the assistance out to where it needs to go. But there's also another part, which the currency has collapsed in Yemen, so you've had a real devaluation of Rial. So even if there's... In some places there is food, but people can't afford it. So there's sort of a mixture of things.

I think on the access point, it's very clear hunger is not an issue only for humanitarians. Hunger is a whole of government issue, and what needs to happen is

the whole of government needs to swing in. And frankly if some of the executive branch is not swinging in hard enough, then there's other parts of the government that ought to use a choice to say that this is important. So from our perspective, calling, drawing attention to the fact that we almost could face a hundred-year famine in Yemen is to galvanize both American public opinion but also congressional opinion to further energize an executive branch action. So solving this hunger conflict crisis is very much up to our humanitarians. It's very much up to our diplomats, and they have to be on the frontline of that. And when I was in South Sudan, as you mentioned, I spent a fair amount of time at the embassy because of the same problems – access to parts of Sudan, we couldn't get access. That's not something that humanitarians in and of themselves can always solve. So you need a whole government response, and we need to understand that the stakes that are involved, as General Ward was talking about, these are huge stakes for America and ought to motivate and put these issues very high up on our diplomatic agenda.

Liz And, Nancy, you might have some thoughts. And as you're addressing this, you also dealt with some times where government did work, so lessons learned from when you were in charge when government... when we were dealing with the Ebola crisis, when we were dealing with responses to tsunamis, when we were dealing with responses to earthquakes. And are there any lessons learned when government does work right?

Nancy Well, I think, you know, the U.S. Government has extraordinary capabilities with the ability to make a very important difference in the lives of people and countries. And I want to give a shout out, because the head of Food for Peace at USAID is sitting right in the front row, Matt Nims. And somewhere in the audience is Dina Esposito who previously was the head of Food for Peace. And I had the opportunity to work with both of them during two examples of where access was really a problem: One in Somalia where al-Shabab was blocking access, and one in Syria where terrorists were making it very dangerous. And in both instances, the extraordinary creativity of Food for Peace colleagues with other parts of the humanitarian community, international and local actors came up with ways to get food in. In Somalia it was working with the market system with traders to get the food in, who could go in, in the ways that humanitarian actors couldn't. And in Syria it was working with the bakeries and using local partners. I mean, so the point I want to make first and foremost is that there is unbelievable creativity and courage that addresses these issues with partners like Save the Children.

And the second point is – local organizations, businesses and NGOs are essential, that working with them, through them, in partnership with them enables important things to happen and more importantly begin, even through the response to build capacity that will sustain you into a more peaceful future.

And third, to get to your point and build on Michael's point – When we are able to work across diplomatic, development, humanitarian and military capabilities together, we are much better equipped to have impact. And I can tell you, having worked in the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2005, which was a chaotic mess... There was no coordination, and there were 17 militaries and the military and the NGOs, and AID wasn't very coordinated. There has been unbelievable progress if you fast forward to the Philippines typhoon or the Ebola crisis where there are agreements,

there's understandings of how to work together, and there's training that people train together. So we should be very pleased about how we respond as a U.S. Government in coordinated action.

Where we haven't gotten good yet is working on the prevention of these crises, of getting upstream with coordinated efforts between our diplomatic military and development communities. We are still working on different timelines and different problem sets. We're good on the response; we've gotten much better on the response to crisis. That's where a lot of the funding goes and a lot of the capability. But we really need to focus, if we're going to *rise to the challenge*, on how do you prevent it?

Q&A

Liz There are microphones right over here and right over there. Welcome to go ahead and line up. And if I could ask you – no speeches so we can get as many in as possible, but please join us and don't be shy. Please.

Q Hi. My name's Ellen Levenson. Hi. You know, this issue of prevention, we talk about it and there's a lot that can be done, we know, on climate and monitoring markets and all that. But when it comes to conflict, we actually do see things building – I mean, what we saw in Yemen, and we knew that the Saudis were so disruptive; you know, they were angry about the Iranian potential presence. So we actually saw that coming and then said okay to the bombing. So I just wondered. I mean, all of the people of goodwill sitting up there. How do we prevent that? How do we influence so that can be stemmed early on. That was a big mistake, and it's continuing, so I'd just love to hear how you think about that. Thanks.

Liz So, Nancy, you want to start that one off, or do you want the General to start that one. I mean, it gets to your point of – we're still not good at this prevention side and working on the three pillars together. We have a general, a diplomat and development expert, and they look to I think probably reinforce. They still work in silos.

Nancy Yeah, and, Ellen, I know you have a long engagement with Yemen and this is a heartbreaking discussion, I'm sure, for you. Before the current crisis, I was in Yemen where 40% of the population was already food-insecure, and the malnutrition was rampant. This is the definition of a fragile country. And what we didn't pay attention to was thinking longer term about the ramifications of entering into the bombing campaign and supporting that.

What I think is, you know, we have the challenge of thinking collectively both short term and long term, how to understand our security needs and what might happen from short-term actions for our long-term security. And that requires a different way of organizing the U.S. Government to have those conversations. Because the development voice that might bring those issues forward is frankly not always present at the table when those decisions are being made. So one of the things that we do at the U.S. Institute of Peace is really focus on how to bring together all of

those voices across political parties and across disciplines to think more creatively about how to address some of these critical issues and to push for that.

Liz Let me ask you. One of the things I know, Nancy, you did when you were at USAID is to make sure there was a USAID senior person at each combatant command, which you did when you set up Africa AFRICOM. Your deputy was a Foreign Service officer. I am told it's better than it was.

Nancy Especially in Africa.

Liz Especially in Africa, but is it good enough? So is civilian military working well enough, particularly in some of the conflict areas?

Ward Better than it was. It's never good enough. Two things I'll say, and I'll be brief. Firstly, when it comes to... And Nancy mentioned our long-term approach to things. We are a representative democracy. The United States military, as do militaries in legitimate societies, respond to its civilian authority. And that's so that's you – that's the citizenry of the United States of America. The things that are important to you will then be reflected in our policy structures. And so to the degree that your influence, your voice is being felt with respect to our policy stance is so critically important, so critically important. The constructs that will help that be realized is a construct that we set up in the United States Africa command, whereby the civilian deputy as well as a senior developmental advisor were civilians so that our military actions were taken in account of what was being done across our developmental sphere as well as our diplomatic sphere, so that our actions complemented what was being done by those two arms of our government as well. Better than it was, not as good as it can be, but we need to continue to work that so that it does get better so that the things that are important to you as a citizen of the United States of America or as importantly, a citizen of our global commons, which are things that lead to our stability, our peace and our prosperity. And those are the things that we continue to have to work on. But your voice and relaying the importance of that, so critically important.

Liz Yeah, I will tell you one thing. When Ambassador Quinn invited me to put this panel together, I shared with him that every combatant commander comes before the Senate Armed Services Committee every year to testify – used to do that – comes to the house. And this year they got asked... Every single one of them got asked – How important is global development, food security, diplomacy, these programs for you? And every single one of them made kind of like a Jim Mattis, if you remember our Secretary of Defense, who has been a strong supporter. Or Secretary Bob Gates used to make these statements. I know he spoke here several years ago. Made these very, very, very strong voices of support for these issues, and I think it's for exactly what, General Ward, you're saying.

A question on this side.

Q Yeah, thank you. James Smith from the Aegis Trust.

Liz Welcome.

Q We've spoken how poor we are at early prevention compared to reacting, and, but other examples of early prevention that have worked even if not very well that we could learn from and apply to other areas: I'm thinking in particular in regard to the Central African Republic, the U.S. Government led an early intervention there when there were threats of mass atrocities after the 2012 uptick in violence. I know, Nancy, you were particularly involved in that. Perhaps you'd like to comment on that.

Liz So the Central Africa Republic. The other one I would maybe throw in also is Ethiopia is also an interesting one where great draught... So maybe Nancy and Michael might have a comment on this. So these are places that could have been much worse. So what did we do right? What are lessons learned of, we got these ones right?

Nancy Well, let me point to Colombia as..., because there are a couple of critical elements of that, that lead you back to Central Africa. And very quickly, the U.S. Government worked across defense, diplomacy and development, and over three administrations continuously and in a cooperative way with the Colombians to support that peace process, still very nascent. But it underscores you need local leadership. It underscores that you need to have that kind of coherent strategy and that it needs to be sustained over time.

The Central Africa Republic example, I would say that it wasn't sustained. I think the U.S. is picking back up now after a bit of a hiatus for several years, trying to support the new peace, the African-led peace and stability initiative. And there is now, I think, leadership with President Touadéra that gives us the possibility of helping that country find its way back to peace. But those are some of the critical elements, and that's what we don't always do well.

I just would also add that equally critical is that we understand the impact of local voices. And as President Reagan famously said, *A hungry child knows no politics*. And a hungry child can't really do much. And so by enabling populations and communities in need to not be so desperate, they have a greater possibility of adding their voice to their own country's future and making a difference – because that's important for moving a country forward.

Michael Yeah, so maybe a macro-point and then a point on Ethiopia. I think the macro-point, if you think about it – Who in the U.S. Government owns peace-building? It's clear who owns development. It's pretty clear who owns humanitarian. If you're trying to sort of wind down a conflict, there's diplomacies. But peace-building actually in the sense we're talking about it, which is sort of a positive stakeholders stake in their future – where does that sit? And so part of the challenge then is you have to, as Nancy was saying, you have to put together all these different pieces. It's collectively owned. Not one person is in charge of it.

However, the good news, I think, is that... My experience as ambassador, I'm sure Ken's also, some of the silos that you see in Washington, you don't have them as dramatically sort of siloed at the country team level in-country. And if you're the ambassador in that country, you're looking at peace-building. And you can have a whole of government within your country team perspective, and the challenge then is how do you get them the leverage and the clout to bring this to Washington and

get it in front of the policymakers that need to get it in front of. That involves a lot of different things.

On Ethiopia, I think if you compare 2011, which was a really severe drought and really hit Somalia very hard but also Ethiopia to 2017, I actually think things changed so that the response in part reflected better preparation and prevention. And part of it was earlier warning, earlier action. But actually the safety nets that were put in place were stronger. The national governments – to your point on local partners – the national governments they rose and got more involved in local partners. So there are some things that happened that actually in this period from 2011 to 2017 resulted in less of a problem in 2017 than otherwise would have been the case.

Liz One question on partners. There aware a lot of businesses that are here today. And one of the big changes that we have all seen... And thank you to the corporate America who has stepped up to the plate, not just the old philanthropic of just giving a check but really engaged in hunger relief and global development. And I still remember my visits to Africa and seeing Paul, you're modernizing seed production plants in Ethiopia. And they're extraordinary in what they're doing. You're doing a lot of partnerships with them. Is that part of the game-changing?

Michael It's absolutely part of the changing landscape. And if you look at sort of the proportion of American investment that's in the private sector versus official aid, it's growing very rapidly there. The other interesting thing is that what I find is a lot of our business partners are thinking in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals. So they're looking at a lot of challenges like hunger not only as a development challenge but as a business challenge and a business opportunity. And so we are partnering...

Liz We're not going if there's conflict there.

Michael Conflict makes it more complicated, but even there, what we find... For example, with refugee populations that have fled Syria, there are companies... If you're looking at these refugee situations are protracted, education can't wait. So there are companies that help get involved in distance learning and things like that. There's pathways in. But the broader partners – I mean, we do a lot of... We're working with Land O'Lakes in Ethiopia, doing a great program on lifting up a lot of different things in the agricultural sector. And women – clearly if you invest in women, the whole family lifts up, and so the gender piece is built in there, the youth piece is built in there. It's a great program to reduce malnutrition.

Liz Great. Yes, please.

Q Zach Nesbit, Clemson University. Go Tigers. Given that a conflict zone is stabilized, what mechanisms are in place to bring food production back? And do you guys think it's adequate enough?

Liz Can you say it one more time? It was a little hard to hear up here.

Q Okay. Is this better?

- Liz Yes.
- Q Okay. Given that a conflict zone is stabilized, what mechanisms are in place to bring food production back to that area? And do you think those mechanisms are adequate?
- Liz So what mechanisms are available when here's a conflict zone to bring it back? There's crisis going on. How do you bring back that food production, that economy? I mean, you've all been there? How do you bring it back?
- Ward We got a group of students from Iowa, Iowa State to go to the country and teach folks how to do things to that they are productive and they make sense and they make money and they feed nutritionally.
- Liz There we go. You heard it here.
- Ward But truly, and that's why this group is so important. I mean, I think we're preaching to the choir here, because you all get the importance of it – but it's how we get involved. How we as a community, a global community, the developmental piece, the governance piece, but importantly the expertise to cause that. Because if you've got a stable environment, in order to keep it stable, then these other things have to flood in like crazy. And our challenge to this point has been that that's been lacking. And so the peace gets created, there's a lack of conflict, but if things are there on the heels of that in quick order, it will quickly devolve into what it was before. So we need all of that there quickly to make a difference.
- Liz Let's take one last question, and then I'm going to close up with a final question to the group.
- Q Bill Crabtree. I'm an Australian farmer, and I'm privileged to be part of the Global Farmer Network here at this event. And I've been sitting with five African, wonderful farmers myself. And I grow crops on no rainfall almost, 12 inches of rain. This year I've had 6, and I think I've got a 3 million dollar crop. And I look at Google Maps and I look at Africa, and I think, man, oh, man, I could grow a lot of crop there, and all I see is a tree and a washed-out gully, and it just doesn't look right. Something's not right. So obviously we don't want the fish story – you know, you give a man a fish or you teach him to fish. How do you think we as a global community could just come up and lift those arms of those wonderful African farmers that I've been sitting with for two days and work with them to put structures in place to help their agriculture fly?
- Liz All right, one of you gets this, only one. What is the magic seeds to get Africa going? Who wants that? Nancy, you look like you're ready to go.
- Nancy I don't have the magic answer, but what I can say is that, you know, one of the big changes that we've seen over the last decade is a shift from a long-sustained provision of food aid as quickly as possible to getting people back up on their feet. An in the Sahel, for example, where you're going to see a lot of those arid drylands, I'll just say from my visits. Where I've seen extraordinary progress is when you get the women involved, when you've got fundamental security, and when you have

available to the farmers some of the innovations, the technologies—really basic things like the ability to pump water through very basic pumps to get to their crops, and things like being able to do a dry season crop. So some of it is kind of fundamental, but when given those opportunities... We saw a green wall emerge in the Sahel because of the efforts of local farmers, many of whom are women. And so I think, you know, there's one thing if you want to go to big commercial scale, but the ability to catalyze and continue to support that kind of local level farming is enormous, and we see it happen. Conflict undermines it.

Liz So I want to ask all three of you one last question to close it out. All four of us live at least in the Washington, DC, area—we admit that, at least I'll admit that. And it's just boiling over in tribalism and partisanship. But here's one issue that you bring us together where everybody agrees. You know, people invest. Just two weeks ago there was this bipartisan bill called Global Food Security Act that was signed into law, bipartisan in Congress. Yay, we can applaud to that, Catherine. It was great, signed in law by President Trump. And there is a reason for that. So I want you to each tell one really quick story to give us hope, the peace part of it that gives you hope that says—I saw something that makes me know that hunger and conflict is not going to be the world in which our children live, that it is going to be the peace moment. And it's because people in Congress and policymakers do get that this is important. Michael, one quick story in your travels.

Michael Let me just say on the Congress part, Congress has a reputation for not having too much on anything, but in this space on global driver humanitarian things, it's a well-kept secret about the enormous amount of legislation that Congress has passed over the last five, six, seven years.

Liz Yup, yup.

Michael And it's bipartisan, and it really is pointing the U.S. direction in a very positive direction. It's under this administration, as you say, the Global Food Security Act. There's the Foreign Assistance Accountability, Transparency and Accountability. There's a lot of really good stuff that Congress... But Congress steps up. Why is that? Because when I'm traveling and I'm seeing kids on the ground and we're seeing the kind of nutrition... I mean, David Nabarro helps get this SUN movement up and running. It's really powerful. People are invested in improving the nutrition of their children. The U.S. is a partner in that, and it's making a difference, you know, something is being reduced in some places. The conflict places are a challenge, but in a lot of other places we've seen positive progress. So you bring results back to the Congress. It's the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do, and frankly it works. So it's a good thing to invest in, and I think that makes a good case when I'm talking to members of Congress.

Liz Fabulous.

Ward I'll be quick. This is the heartland of America. It's the heart of the human being. It doesn't matter who you are, where you are. It reminds me of World War II stories when you hear of American soldiers going in the streets of Europe and handing a piece of chocolate candy to a small kid who had known nothing about that. Your servicemen and women globally have that heart. We as a human race have that

heart. There are one or two out there that probably you would doubt it from time to time. But we have that, and so that spirit of treating someone as you would want to be treated – it is as simple as that. If we would practice that, we would go beyond where we are today if we practice that in mass. That’s happening amongst your Armed Forces members as they work with their partners in the developmental community and the diplomatic community, because their fellow human beings to be a bit better off where they are than they might otherwise be.

Liz Nancy, you’ve been in some tough places in the world. What gives you hope?

Nancy Well, I am leaving on Saturday to accompany 30 youth leaders from some of the toughest conflict-affected countries on the planet to a two-day dialog with the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala. Each of these youth leaders have experienced terrible tragedy in their life. They’ve been pulled from a bus by Boko Haram, bombed in a stadium in Uganda by al-Shabab, on their way to university in Aleppo when suddenly they had to go across the border into Lebanon and become a refugee. I mean, they’ve had these terrible moments of tragedy that have changed their lives forever. And each of them has decided not to choose bitterness and anger and a sense of victimhood but instead to become leaders in their own communities and to build peace in whatever way they can. The young man headed to Aleppo started a school for Syrian children in Lebanon so that they wouldn't miss out on their early education. There are unbelievable stories of hope and resilience, and that’s what we need to invest in. You’re looking at a world that is very young. Most conflict have the majority of their population under the age of 15 – hugely expanding. They need to be the leaders for peace, and that’s who we need to partner with going forward. I will say on this hopefulness and Congressional action, it is because of people like everyone here. I mean, your action, your caring does get heard and communicated. I can’t tell you how many times I hear from members of Congress that, “Oh, yeah, we got phone calls on that.” Don't think your voice doesn't matter. It does matter. We know that from public opinion polls that Americans have a deep reservoir of support for these issues. But we don't always vote on that, so this is where your voice can make a difference.

Liz Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking Ambassador Michael Klosson, Nancy Lindborg, and General Kip Ward.
