1. From your experience, what are the human rights that are most affected by corruption? What specific negative impact can corruption have on the enjoyment of human rights by vulnerable groups such as women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and others?

In the context of food assistance operations, corruption may happen at different stages, including during transfer of food, vouchers or cash, when selecting programme beneficiaries, and during or after distributions. In conflict and post conflict settings, corruption may be fostered by the weakened or collapsed state’s institutional machinery and the erosion of traditional power dynamics. In natural disasters, corruption may also arise, due to the breakdown of the coping mechanisms of the affected populations and their lack of access to assistance. Corruption may have serious consequences on people’s right to assistance and right to food by limiting people’s access to assistance or reducing the overall or individual amounts that people are entitled to receive. This may be particularly serious for the most vulnerable groups, such as women-headed households, child-headed households, elderly people without support networks, and traditionally marginalised indigenous and ethnical minorities.

Specifically, corruption may cause:

* **Inclusion errors**, corruption may lead to the inclusion of more than the targeted group in the registration process by identifying non-existent beneficiaries and/or including those who do not meet the targeting criteria.
* **Exclusion errors leading** to the exclusion of vulnerable people from targeting, registration and food assistance negatively impacting their food security and possibly further exacerbating their existing vulnerabilities.
* **Manipulation**, corruption might result in efforts to influence the targeting registration and distribution process for non-humanitarian purposes. For example, food assistance may be manipulated to gain political consensus.
* **Misappropriation**, corruptive attitudes could lead to resources being diverted from the intended beneficiates before, during or after distribution. This may happen particularly in volatile socio–political contexts where social structures are broken down.

1. Do you have any experience in integrating a human rights perspective in combating corruption? What are the best practices and what are the challenges in this respect?

WFP's work on human rights is framed under its policy on humanitarian protection. The policy integrates the human rights-based concepts of non-discrimination and accountability which ensure the design and implementation of food assistance programmes take into account the linkages between food security and the promotion and protection of the safety and dignity of the people it seeks to assist. In line with this policy, WFP has an obligation to adopt mitigation measures to avert protection risks that affect its programmes and the affected populations, including those stemming from corruption.

WFP works on a number of different fronts to reduce the likelihood of corruption in its programmes and any negative effects that corruption may have on people’s access to assistance. Key to these mitigating measures is to ensure transparency in programme implementation, for example through the wide dissemination of information regarding targeting criteria and selection processes as well as the distribution times, locations and entitlements. Registration and distribution committees, including representatives of affected populations, are also established to ensure targeting and distributions are carried out in-line with clearly defined criteria and that those most in need of food assistance are targeted. WFP further performs verification exercises to ensure those receiving assistance are entitled to assistance, and to ensure accurate beneficiary lists. To avoid manipulation, WFP ensures regular independent monitoring and engages with a variety of partners to this end. WFP moreover establishes complaint mechanisms for recipients to ensure they can provide feedback to WFP and key partners on any allegations of misuse and/or abuse; WFP and its partners ensure the complaints are followed-up and the complainant is advised of the status of their complaint. WFP has also adopted an anti-corruption and anti-fraud policy as well as has an investigations unit to follow-up on internal allegations of corruption and misuse. Despite WFP’s best efforts cases of corruption may still occur; WFP takes them extremely seriously and thoroughly investigates all accusations.

1. What measures can be taken by the Human Rights Council and its subsidiaries bodies or by States to combat corruption with specific consideration of the negative impact of corruption in the enjoyment of human rights?

The Human Rights Council should continue to encourage intergovernmental and interagency dialogue on issues related to fighting corruption and its negative impact on human rights; to enhance information sharing and promote awareness raising initiatives as well as to brainstorm of collective efforts to overcome corruption.

1. How can the United Nations human right mechanism be utilized for anticorruption efforts? What other institutional mechanism could be used to integrate human rights based approach in combating corruption or vice-versa at both, the international and national level?

The United Nations human rights mechanism should encourage strengthened linkages between humanitarian and development interventions to ensure the full respect of human rights. Specifically, the UN could focus more on the potential of its coordination functions at the country level to ensure there are practical systems in place to combat corruption and fraud occurring within a humanitarian response. The HCT could take a stronger role in raising the issue and supervising a light coordination mechanism to identify and respond to corruption and fraud. Such systems would need to see affected communities as an integral partner and stakeholder in this approach, along with civil society and national and international NGOs. Good practice examples exist, for example in Pakistan, where WFP partners with Transparency International and the US government to cross link complaints and response mechanisms and respond to allegations of corruption and fraud. A variety of approaches and entry points allows a higher rate of reporting and responsiveness ensures the building of trust and the functionality of the system.