



## **Beyond the crises: how Sahelian communities boost their resilience – results from the ground and sky**

### **Side event on the margins of the first regular session of the Executive Board**

**Tuesday, 28 February 2023, 08:45–09:30**

**Red Foyer, WFP Headquarters**

### **Context**

In a region affected by complex and protracted crises, we urgently need to tackle the root causes of hunger alongside responding to immediate needs. With this vision, WFP joined forces with governments and partners to implement an integrated resilience programme across the Sahelian countries of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. The approach combines a variety of land rehabilitation and livelihood activities, school feeding, nutrition interventions, support to smallholder farmers, and institutional capacity strengthening.

Four years into implementation, the programme has become one of WFP's flagship resilience initiatives. It has demonstrated positive outcomes in terms of food security and nutrition, natural land regeneration, access to social services and education, women's empowerment and reduction of hardships, as well as social cohesion – all of which are crucial to break the cycle of hunger, reduce humanitarian needs, and pave the way for resilient food systems. Most importantly and with rare exceptions, beneficiaries' food consumption remained stable or improved despite the various shocks and stressors affecting the region.

Now is the time to multiply our efforts. Building upon the achievements made and lessons learned so far, WFP and partners embark on a second phase of the programme to be implemented over the next five years. The way forward aims to: i) consolidate resilience gains and evolve support packages in existing sites; ii) expand activities to new sites; iii) further programme integration by leveraging linkages with social protection; and iv) reinforce complementarity with operational partners, particularly on social cohesion, energy and water.

### **Objectives**

A multi-media exhibition will make the results achieved so far accessible through high-quality photo and video material telling captivating personal stories, drone shots and satellite imagery showing large-scale land transformation, and WFP's latest virtual reality production allowing Members of the Executive Board to step into a WFP resilience site. Together, the exhibition will tell the story of WFP's resilience work in areas that are difficult to access and are largely underreported.

More specifically, the exhibition and opening event aim to:

- Deepen the understanding of WFP's resilience building approach by showcasing one of the organization's flagship programmes.
- Reflect on the need for longer-term programmes to complement and over time reduce the need for humanitarian assistance.

- Take stock of the challenges, achievements and lessons learned since the scale-up of resilience programming in the Sahel.
- Launch the Operational Roadmap (2023-2028) for the Integrated Resilience Programme in the Sahel and inform members of the Executive Board about WFP's vision for the programme's future.

## **Agenda**

### **1. Opening (3 minutes)**

- Mr George Fominyen, Chief, Global Media Unit, WFP

### **2. Resilience in times of unprecedented needs: how to safeguard development achievements and bring down humanitarian needs (5 minutes)**

- Mr David Beasley, Executive Director, WFP

### **3. Providing what Sahelian communities need (5 minutes)**

- Mr Limam Abdawa, Deputy Commissioner for Food Security, Food Security Commission, Government of Mauritania

### **4. Long-term partnerships for long-term solutions (5 minutes)**

- Ms Elke Löbel, Commissioner for Refugee Policy and Director for Displacement and Migration, Crisis Prevention and Management, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Government of Germany

### **5. Outlook for the future and closing (4 minutes)**

- Mr Chris Nikoi, Regional Director, Western Africa, WFP

### **6. Coffee and tour of the exhibition (25 min)**