



Unlocking Collaborative Solutions: The Impact of the UNHCR-WFP Joint Hub in Situations of Forced Displacement

Side event on the margins of the second regular session of the Executive Board
Tuesday, 14 November 2023, 13:30–14:30
Auditorium, WFP Headquarters

Background

The **UNHCR-WFP Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub** represents a pioneering initiative in the field of humanitarian response, demonstrating the collaborative efforts of UNHCR and WFP in addressing complex crises, such as forced displacement, in a more effective and efficient manner. In the current global landscape characterized by extreme funding shortfalls, heightened emphasis on prioritization and targeting, and a growing focus on political and development solutions for forced displacement, the role of this Hub is more critical than ever.

Event objectives

- *Showcase the Hub's work:* Provide an overview of the Hub's activities and accomplishments, illustrating how it has significantly improved the delivery of humanitarian assistance in challenging contexts.
- *Highlight collaboration:* Emphasize the importance of strong collaboration between UNHCR and WFP, and how the Hub has become a symbol of this partnership, showcasing how the two agencies complement each other's work.
- *Underline added value:* Highlight the added value of the Hub in terms of its capacity to address real-time complexities and adapt to changing circumstances, ensuring that assistance reaches those in need effectively and efficiently.
- *Navigate funding challenges:* Discuss strategies and solutions for mitigating extreme funding shortfalls, underlining the role of the Hub in resource optimization and innovative funding approaches.
- *Address targeting and prioritization:* Explore how the Hub has enhanced targeting, making sure that aid reaches the most vulnerable populations, aligning with donor expectations for prioritization.
- *Political and development solutions:* Recognize the importance of political and development solutions for forced displacement and how the Hub has played a pivotal role in advocating these approaches.

Proposed agenda

1. **Lunch and networking (before the event):** Prior to the official programme, a lunch will be provided to encourage networking and informal discussions among attendees.
2. **Opening remarks:** An opening address by Lara Fossi, Deputy Director, Emergencies & Transition Service, WFP.
3. **Presentation of the Hub:** A 2-minute video explaining how the Hub works with some examples from the field.
4. **Semi-formal discussion:** Two speakers, (Hanan Malek Hamdan, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the Arab Republic of Egypt and to the League of Arab States; Marcus Prior, Deputy Country Director, Uganda, UN World Food Programme (WFP) [dialing in remotely]) sharing their insights on the Hub's work, and one moderator (Marcia Wong, Deputy Assistant to the Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)).
5. **Audience engagement:** A dynamic Q&A session where attendees can pose questions and engage directly with the speakers, the moderator, WFP, UNHCR and the Joint Hub (Lara Fossi, Deputy Director, Emergencies & Transition Service; Alia Al-Khatat-Williams, Deputy Director, Division of Resilience and Solutions, UNHCR; Jane Lewis, Head of the UNHCR-WFP Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub).
6. **Closing remarks:** Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director Programme, WFP.

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness of the Hub's activities and impact on humanitarian response.
- Enhanced understanding of the significance of collaboration and complementarity in addressing forced displacement.
- Identifying innovative funding approaches and best practices for prioritization and targeting.
- Highlighting the crucial role of WFP, UNHCR and the Hub in advocating political and development solutions in forced displacement contexts.
- Active engagement with attendees, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences.

Sponsor: United States of America mission