



Investing in the Future: Prioritizing Prevention of Acute Malnutrition in Children

Side event on the margins of the second regular session of the Executive Board
Wednesday, 15 November 2023
Format: In-person with live footage from the field

Special speakers

High level opening (or closing) remarks:

- Ms Cindy McCain, Executive Director, WFP

Dialogue:

- Mr Victor Aguayo, Director of Nutrition and Child Development, UNICEF (online)
- Ms Sarah Charles, Assistant to the Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, USAID
- Ms Chiara Segrado, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations in Rome and Co-Chair of Friends of WFP Nutrition
- H.E. Morten Aasland, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations organizations in Rome

Moderator:

- Abigail Perry, Director of Nutrition, WFP

Overview

At least 45 million children under 5 suffer from acute malnutrition, and numbers are on the rise. Urgent and early action to prevent wasting will not only avert a catastrophic loss of life but will save a generation of children from a future marked by illness, poor school results and poverty. Preventative measures will help build community and individual resilience to shocks and stressors. Acting early before children are acutely malnourished is not only the right thing to do – it is also a better use of resources.

Despite recent efforts, funding to address acute malnutrition remains insufficient and is often delivered in a way that makes sustainable progress challenging.

Join our high-level guests as they discuss why prioritizing the prevention of acute malnutrition in children is so important. We will also take you via live link to the field in Madagascar, where you will see how WFP's work is saving and changing lives. Our panellists will reflect on how, and why, prevention activities need to be at the core of our work as we endeavour to break the cycle of malnutrition.

Objectives

- To raise awareness of the prevention of acute malnutrition and the new wasting prevention package (especially in fragile and emergency contexts).
- To present the vision on the way forward on addressing wasting through a new and scaled up approach on wasting, in collaboration with UNICEF.
- To showcase WFP nutrition operations in action in Madagascar, building on the recent visit by Friends of Nutrition representatives (September 2023).¹

¹ **Focal point:** Ms Saskia Hicks, Nutrition Outreach and Advocacy Team Lead, Nutrition Division, (saskia.hicks@wfp.org).