



Concept note

Men Stand for Gender Equality event:
“ Ubuntu - Engaging men on gender equality ”
March 11th: 14:00-15:30
On Teams Live

“No one is equal, until we are ALL equal.”

— Elizabeth Nyamayaro, [I Am a Girl from Africa](#)

Background

The WFP movement ‘Men Stand for Gender Equality’ (MS4GE) was established in 2015 by 24 male WFP colleagues during the 16 days of activism. The aim of the movement is to engage WFP employees to actively participate in the gender equality conversation and positively advocate in the important role of men in this journey. Since then, more than 1,700 WFP men in 89 countries have joined the movement and became gender champions in their country office, RB and in HQ.

Many MS4GE location branches, such as in South Sudan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Yemen, together with many colleagues in RBs and HQ, have organized advocacy events, have reached out to their communities to get more men involved into the gender equality conversation. MS4GE is committed to continue this advocacy until 100% of WFP men are part of the gender equality conversation.

Members of the movement have joined forces with local male engagement movements such as the white ribbon campaign to make a positive change in their communities. Over the past years, many events have been organized, mainly during the 16 days of activism, orange days and during IWD. MS4GE participated in 2021 in the IWD panel discussion facilitated by the Rome-based agencies. Some of the events organized by the movement included book presentations, such as the event with Michael Kaufmann to present his book ‘The time has come - why men must join the gender equality revolution’. The aim of the movement is to create a positive impact with active participation and advocacy to achieve measurable results towards achieving gender equality.

One of the most iconic and inspiring books of 2021 has been ‘I am a girl from Africa’ by Elizabeth Nyamayaro. The book describes the ambitious journey of a small girl from Zimbabwe to London, New York and beyond to fulfil her dream in working for the United Nations. As part of this journey, Elizabeth works with UN Women and creates HeforShe, a global male engagement movement with the goal to promote positive change and achieve concrete results towards gender equality. Elizabeth’s journey and work is an inspiration for MS4GE.

Event Theme:

As Elizabeth now works for WFP, it is an opportunity to make her work visible in the leadup to International Women's Day. In her book, she demonstrates the need for men to become part of the gender equality journey by taking action and be the positive change in the world.

Building on her experience with HeforShe and her work with UN Women, achieving change in men engagement by working with governments around the world.

Elizabeth's book highlights the importance of Ubuntu, an African concept referring to humanness. It gives an expression of deeply-held African ideals of one's personhood being rooted in one's interconnectedness with others. Gender equality is connected to this concept – working together, men and women to achieve a common goal – gender equality.

The focus of the event is to take this inspiration and showcase steps WFP and members of MS4GE will take in the coming months to actively promote gender equality in the organization. It will showcase outcomes of WFPs work in the field by highlighting examples of WFPs gender work in country offices and how we support a positive change in the work of WFP together with other UN agencies towards gender equality.

Call to Action

To demonstrate the positive impact MS4GE has on the work of the WFP and building on the inspiring work of Elizabeth, the event will highlight the importance of male engagement for gender equality with the emphasis on concrete and practical steps to advance.

Everyone will be encouraged to read '*I am a girl from Africa*', an emotional and encouraging memoir from Elizabeth Nyamayaro with many positive example on how to successfully create positive change and make measurable progress towards gender equality. The WFP Library and Research Centre will provide the book in digital copies, accessible globally, and in hardback (in HQ).

In addition, it will showcase examples from the RBA's work in actively encourages men in communities to participate in improving the community's livelihood and overcome traditional gender roles. It will also focus on the ability of MS4GE to connect men in WFP and build a support mechanism to discuss gender equality and actively encourage men to become gender champions in their communities.

The event will launch WFP FLOCK¹ Men's Circles – a peer support group created by men for men. The initiative aims to provide a safe environment for men to openly talk about their feelings and daily struggles, a space that inspires and empowers them to effectively show up in a changing and increasingly demanding world and that supports them in being an agent for gender equality and peaceful conflict-resolution.

Objectives

Following conversations arising from International Women's Day 2022, the event aims to:

- Encourage men to become active gender champions and take action towards gender equality
- Showcase the inspirational book from Elizabeth Nyamayaro '*I am a girl from Africa*' and her journey creating HeforShe and engaging men in taking important steps towards gender equality
- Highlight outcomes from the field on supporting communities on the role of men on and overcoming traditional gender roles
- Launch WFP FLOCK Men's circles and the support mechanism for men to effectively connect to themselves, strengthen their relational capacity and engage on gender equality and peaceful conflict-resolution.

- Give visibility to the Rome-based agencies in promoting gender equality at all levels

Key messages

- Gender equality is important for all of us, men and women
- We need men to actively engage and defend gender equality in order for it to happen
- Standing up for gender equality is not a lip commitment but a call for action to participate actively in making a change
- Men's circles provide men with the space and resources needed to become effective agents for gender equality and peaceful conflict resolution

Draft Agenda

Time	Session	Speaker
14:00	Welcome remarks	Amir Abdulla, DED, WFP
14:05	Keynote address	H.E. Mr. Carlos Cherniak, Ambassador of Argentina
14:15	Interview: HeforShe	Elizabeth Nyamayaro (<i>Author – "I am a girl from Africa"</i>) & Michael Hemling (<i>WFP Men Stand for Gender Equality</i>)
14:30	Launch of FLOCK Men's Circles (WFP Staff Wellness)	Isabelle Rampa (<i>WFP Staff Counsellor</i>) & Darko Petrovic (<i>WFP Barbados</i>)
14:40	Testimony:	John Bosco (<i>Uganda</i>)
15:20	Closing remarks	FAO Women's Committee

Moderator: *George Muammar, Head of WFP Library & Research Centre*