



Engagement around the evidence base for WFP's next Strategic Plan

Thursday, 6 February 2025 | 9:30 – 17:00
WFP Headquarters

Context

At a time when we are facing record needs, shrinking funding and a complex operating environment, WFP's next Strategic Plan provides an opportunity for WFP to take stock of its mission, and ensure we are well positioned to deliver on our vision for a world with Zero Hunger. The new Strategic Plan needs to define where WFP is best placed to make a meaningful difference and have more impact, focusing on using our and our partners' comparative advantages to meet urgent needs and build scalable and sustainable solutions for people and communities experiencing recurring crises. An updated Corporate Results Framework, to be presented for approval alongside the next Strategic Plan, will enable WFP to better measure progress and results against clear indicators.

To inform the design of the Strategic Plan and ensure it is grounded in evidence, WFP has developed or commissioned several key studies. Beyond the Mid-Term Evaluation of WFP's Strategic Plan 2022-2025, which was presented to the Executive Board at the November 2024 session, the evidence base for WFP's next Strategic Plan design include:

- An analysis of WFP's context developed by our Food Security & Nutrition Analysis service;
- A strategic foresight exercise led by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG);
- A stakeholder mapping and assessment of WFP's comparative advantage conducted by the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI);
- A political economy of hunger done by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS).

Objectives

To socialize the key outputs from the background products that form the evidence base and provide an opportunity for Executive Board members to share comments and ask questions.

To have an open and inclusive dialogue on emerging insights from the evidence base, gather diverse perspectives and feedback from Executive Board members, and to use this input to inform the direction of WFP's next Strategic Plan.

Approach and format

This engagement will focus on the evidence base for WFP's next Strategic Plan design. The day will be divided in two parts:

1) *Morning*: A roundtable to review the background products that are part of the evidence base. This session will be held in plenary and will include a presentation of the background studies followed by comments, questions, and discussion.

2) *Afternoon*: A workshop to explore strategic implications for WFP's positioning and orientation.



The workshop will serve as a platform for open discussion and collaboration. Parallel group discussions and the plenary session will encourage an informal, participatory and constructive engagement and exchange across all participants. Participants will be divided into working groups to discuss selected topics. Each group will nominate a representative to report back to plenary.

Note: The morning plenary roundtable may be attended either virtually or in person. The afternoon workshop is convened in-person only to enable interactive engagement. The afternoon workshop will be conducted in English. Ad hoc interpretation support will be provided on a needs basis.

Agenda

09:30-12:30 (Auditorium)	The morning session will be chaired by Ms. Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, Programme Operations Department, and will focus on the background studies. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Presentation by each research team, followed by Q&A➤ Group discussion to discuss the research findings, their implications and strategic reflections
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-17:00 (Aula Delegatis)	<p>The afternoon session will be chaired by Mr. Arif Husain, Chief Economist and Director, Analysis, Planning and Performance Division, and will be used for a deep-dive breakout exercise.</p> <p>Participants will be divided into three groups, with each one assigned a key strategic issue related to the new strategic plan. They will be given guiding questions to consider and a facilitator from the research team, and will be asked to brainstorm ideas to present in a subsequent group discussion. The strategic issues will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Preparing for the future – beyond the horizon2. Clarifying WFP's edge – strengths, impact and excellence3. Decoding the political economy of hunger

Background documents provided to the participants:

- WFP's context analysis;
- Strategic foresight outputs;
- Stakeholder mapping and white paper on WFP's comparative advantage;
- Political economy of hunger study.



All background documents are provided in two versions: the full paper, and a two-pager summarizing key findings and insights.

Questions for discussion in small groups (afternoon session):

Topic 1: Preparing for the future – beyond the horizon

- What are the main emerging threats for food and nutrition security, and how are they likely to affect our environment and ourselves?
- What do you see as priority areas of investments to enable WFP in a post 2030 Agenda environment?

Topic 2: Clarifying WFP's edge – strengths, impact and excellence

- Which areas should WFP focus on to maintain current and gain future comparative advantages?
- What should WFP's role be in more stable environments, from tackling root causes of hunger to service provision?

Topic 3: Decoding the political economy of hunger

- Looking at trends in food security and nutrition policies, what can we expect in terms of main shifts in demand for WFP's assistance from host governments?
- How are humanitarian funding and Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows aligning with that demand, and what does it mean for WFP?