



## **The Cost of the Double Burden of Malnutrition: Social and Economic Impact**

Side event on the margins of the Annual Session of the Executive Board

Tuesday, 13 June 2017, 13:15– 14:45

Auditorium, WFP Headquarters

### **Context**

Undernutrition and obesity/overweight are traditionally perceived as problems that affect the rich and the poor separately. In reality they are two faces of the same coin and both affect the poorest and most vulnerable communities disproportionately. When experienced together, they inflict a *double burden* on countries and their resources.

Although Latin America and the Caribbean has progressed in reducing undernutrition, rising obesity and overweight are becoming significant problems in the region. Meanwhile, stunting and anaemia remain serious public health problems, and addressing them continues to be a development priority in most countries. This combination of coexisting malnutrition, linked to economic processes and lifestyle changes that lead to excessive diet and related illnesses, is resulting in lost productivity and pressure on health and education systems. It is also costing billions of dollars.

Against this background, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have partnered to estimate the effects and costs of the double burden of malnutrition on health, education and productivity under the study – "The Cost of Double Burden of Malnutrition: Social and Economic Impact", which has generated a model for analysis to be replicated at larger scale.

### **Objectives**

1. Raise awareness of the impact of the double burden of malnutrition on societies and their economies today and in the future.
2. Present the results of the study, including options for effectively responding to this multifaceted problem, and the role that WFP can play under its recently approved Nutrition Policy (2017-2021) in supporting governments to address the double burden.
3. Reaffirm the central role of nutrition in accelerating social development and call for the necessary changes of policies required to eradicate all forms of malnutrition, contributing to the achievement of the SDG2 by 2030.

### **Agenda**

The event will be moderated by Lauren Landis (Director, Nutrition Division, WFP). Featured speakers will include the Ambassador of El Salvador and Chair of GRULAC, and the WFP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Welcome and introduction of speakers:

- Welcoming words from WFP Executive Director (TBC)
- Moderator: Lauren Landis, Director of Nutrition, WFP

Regional Dimension:

- H.E. Sandra Elizabeth Alas Guidos, Ambassador of El Salvador and Chair of the Latin American and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC); and
- Miguel Barreto, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, WFP

Presentation of the Study:

- Marc Andre Prost, Regional Nutrition Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, WFP; and
- Rodrigo Martinez, Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC

Floor opened for discussion

Response and closing – led by Moderator

Summary and full report in English and Spanish are available at the following link: [\*The cost of the double burden of malnutrition: Social and economic impact. Summary of the pilot study.\*](#)