



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme

**High-Level Segment on the Four Famines
Annual Session of the WFP Executive Board, 12-15 June 2017
Monday, 12 June 2017, 15:00 – 16:15**

Concept

A high-level segment focused on the four famine countries will be held during the Annual Session of the Executive Board. The special segment will take place on day one of the Board, on Monday, 12 June, from 15:00 to 16:15.

The segment will be jointly chaired by WFP Executive Director and FAO Director-General, with participation via video-link of the Executive Director of UNICEF.

Special speakers will include Ministers from each of the affected countries, in addition to the African Union Commission (AUC) Representative, as Special Guest for the Opening Session taking place on the morning of 12 June.

The segment will be chaired by the WFP Executive Board President and the outcome of the discussions would be incorporated in the Summary of Work for the Annual Session. The format will include an introduction by the Executive Director of WFP, interventions from the AUC Representative, the Executive Director of UNICEF and each of the Ministers, followed by closing remarks by the Director-General of FAO, with time for interventions from the Board membership. A proposed scenario follows:

Chair(s):

- President of the Executive Board, Mr. Yousef Jhail, Permanent Representative of Kuwait (morning session)
- Vice-President of the Executive Board, Mr. Zoltán Kálmán, Permanent Representative of Hungary (afternoon session)

- Chair to introduce the High-Level Segment and to facilitate between speakers
- Welcome by WFP Executive Director David M. Beasley, as co-host
- Her Excellency Madam Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
- UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake, patched in from New York
- Nigeria Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Geoffrey Onyeama
- Somalia Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Her Excellency Dr. Maryan Qasim
- South Sudan Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, His Excellency Hussein Mar Nyuot
- Yemen Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Dr. Nazar Basuhaib
- Closing remarks by FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva, as co-host

- Chair to open the floor to interventions



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Overall objectives

- Continue to highlight the severity and complexity of the crisis across the four countries, as well as the regional implications, from its origins in conflict and drought to widespread and deep food insecurity and malnutrition bordering on famine, at a scale not seen since the inception of the United Nations. “It is unacceptable that in 2017 children are dying from starvation”.
- Broaden the discussion beyond the immediate humanitarian assistance to one requiring sustained engagement from the international community and dedicated support from the humanitarian and development actors to contribute to the rebuilding of livelihoods and thereby peace and stability.

Specific Objectives

Highlight where feasible, the complementary role of humanitarian actors and their contribution to date, alongside the authorities at all levels (national, regional and community) as:

- life and livelihood saving measures;
- contributors to peace and stability; and
- a platform for recovery.

Focus on the longevity of the crises, beyond the current lean season, and highlight the areas for focus and the critical challenges moving ahead.

- Across Somalia, South Sudan and North-East Nigeria, we are at the outset of the lean or hunger season and the rains. This is the most difficult time of the year when household food stocks have typically been depleted, market prices are at their highest, and households are showing weakest levels of purchasing power. The end of the lean season this year will not, however, mark the end of the potential for famine.
- The ongoing conflicts in South Sudan and North East Nigeria will continue to push and protract the suffering of these populations well past the end of the lean season. Only an end to the ongoing conflicts will address these crises.
- In Yemen, conflict and the potential loss of access to the Hudaidah port are key factors to the potential famine. While humanitarian assistance can help avert a famine and loss of life in the short term, there is no humanitarian solution to the ongoing challenges.

Identify the outputs achieved and measureable achievements in food security and nutrition, what our focus is moving forward, and what challenges exist that may hinder the response.

Highlight what the world needs to pay attention to moving forward. Include the economic consequences of not reacting now. What additional support is required.