

Friends of WFP Nutrition

Overview of Friends of WFP Nutrition

The Friends of WFP Nutrition is an Executive Board run group, with WFP Nutrition support, chaired by a current or past Executive Board Member State. The Friends of WFP Nutrition aims to keep the Executive Board informed on topical nutrition issues, to showcase WFP Nutrition related activities and to explore ways to move forward together to promote nutrition.

Ireland has been chairing the Friends of WFP Nutrition since 2019, organizing events to showcase various thematic topics such as the SUN Movement, Fill the Nutrient Gap, WFP Nutrition in the field with Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, nutrition-sensitive school feeding, and more.

2021 Friends of WFP Nutrition Series: The Role of Nutrition in the Prospects for Peace

The Friends of WFP Nutrition is organizing events to highlight the linkages between conflict and malnutrition. This 2-part series will offer an opportunity to learn about the multi-dimensional factors interlinking conflict and malnutrition, with the first session examining the links between conflict and malnutrition, and the second part looking deeper at what role WFP Nutrition and partners may play in contributing to peace.

The events will be moderated by the Chair of the Friends of WFP Nutrition, Mr Paul Kiernan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland.

Context

With the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to WFP, the links between conflict and hunger have been put front and centre, highlighting the critical role that food assistance plays in supporting steps towards peace and stability. As discussions on how WFP's work contributes to peace, so does the thinking behind the role that nutrition plays. We know that food and nutrition – sometimes the defining factor between health and death – play a crucial role in establishing an individual's potential to live a full life and be an active part of society. Healthy, educated, fulfilled individuals exponentially increase the chances of establishing thriving communities, economies and societies; ensuring adequate nutrition is a key starting point.

Conflict and insecurity – often occurring in parallel to climate shocks, natural disasters and their economic effects – are the main drivers of hunger and malnutrition. Inversely, food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition fuel conflict as they impact people's livelihoods, homes and land deepening existing tensions. As food insecurity worsens, so do dietary patterns with adverse short- and long-term effects of exposure to conflict on nutritional status. The underlying factors related to conflict influence food availability and access to food, while heavily shifting dietary patterns and increasing the risks of all forms of malnutrition.

Knowing that the quality of food is as critical, WFP aims to improve access to nutritious and safe food, while leveraging capacities of vulnerable people through its nutrition programmes. Increasing evidence is showing that food security interventions can have positive effects on people's lives and in preventing further conflict, and nutrition has a key role to play.

Part 1 – 9 April, 13:00-14:30

As the first in the 2-part series, this session will lay the groundwork for understanding the many factors impacting nutrition in conflict settings, while also showcasing the nutrition work WFP and partners are doing in conflict settings. More specifically, the event will:

- Outline the multi-dimensional connections between conflict and malnutrition.
- Inform the Executive Board membership on nutrition programmes in conflict settings.
- Discuss how nutrition is impacted by conflict and how it fits into the peace agenda.

Agenda

Welcome Remarks by Mr Paul Kiernan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland, and Chair of the Friends of WFP Nutrition (5 minutes)

Keynote Speaker (10 minutes):

- Ms Abigail Perry, Senior Nutrition Adviser, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Panel (30 minutes):

- Mr Laurent Bukera, Country Director, WFP Yemen
- Mr Sean O'Brien, Country Director, WFP Syria
- Mr Matthew Hollingworth, Country Director, WFP South Sudan

Q&A session (30 minutes)

Closing remarks (10 minutes):

- Ms Allison Oman Lawi, Director a.i., Nutrition Division, WFP
- Mr Samir Wanmali, Deputy Director, Policy and Programme Division, WFP