



Rome

Invitation: Brown Bag Lunch (BBL) to discuss the implementation of WFP's Protection and Accountability Policy

Time and place: Thursday 29 April 2021, 1.00-2.15 pm (CET/Rome time), on the Zoom platform.

Language: English.

Purpose: The key objective of the BBL is to increase awareness and understanding among Member States what the recently adopted WFP Protection and Accountability Policy sets out to achieve, and how they can support an effective and ambitious implementation of the policy as well as supporting WFP in transforming its working modalities and mindset in the way the policy foresees. The updated policy is to be implemented in all contexts where WFP works – emergency, development, and protracted crisis settings. During the BBL, we will focus specifically on WFP's engagement with humanitarian protection and the importance of getting the implementation right.

Programme:

1.00-1.05 pm: **Introduction** – Petter Nilsson, Deputy Permanent Representative to WFP and IFAD, Embassy of Sweden, Rome

1.05-1.15 pm: **Brief overview of the new policy and its key objectives** – Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, WFP, Rome

1.15-1.50 pm: **Panel discussion** – Facilitated by Anna Sahlén Ramazzotti, Programme Manager Specialist & Senior Advisor on Protection, Sida, Stockholm

Panellists:

- Denise Brown, Deputy Special Representative for MINUSCA and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Bangui
- William Chemaly, Coordinator of the Global Protection Cluster, Geneva
- Matthew Hollingworth, Country Director, WFP, Juba

1.50-2.05 pm: **Q&A Session**

2.05-2.15 pm: **Wrap-up** – Jakob Wernerman, Director Humanitarian Aid, Sida, Stockholm

Background and challenges of the new policy

In November 2020, the Executive Board approved the **WFP Protection and Accountability Policy**, a successor to the 2012 humanitarian protection policy. The updated policy goes beyond humanitarian protection and is to be implemented in all contexts where WFP operates – emergency, development, and protracted crisis settings. It commits WFP to prevent and respond to protection risks associated with hunger, in other words to put protection at the centre and achieve protection outcomes in addition to meeting food needs, as well as to strengthen inclusive engagement and the empowerment of affected populations, and thereby improve accountability to these populations.

Protection is understood as activities that aim to prevent, reduce, mitigate, and respond to the risks and consequences of violence, coercion, deprivation and abuse for persons, groups, and communities.

The new WFP policy is very much in line with commitments within the humanitarian system to ensure the **centrality of protection in humanitarian action** and the **collective responsibility of all actors to contribute to protection** of affected persons¹. Effective implementation of the policy would enable WFP, and its partners, to accelerate ongoing efforts within the humanitarian system to embrace a system-wide approach to protection, where all humanitarian actors, independently of their sector-specific expertise, collectively contribute to increasing the protection of affected persons. A system-wide approach, also including development and peace actors when relevant and feasible, is needed to effectively address the multi-faceted nature of risks that people experience in armed conflict and other situations of violence. The Policy provides the framework and the steps WFP needs to take to provide fit-for-purpose inclusive solutions. WFP, due to its sheer size and range but also due to its strong position within the humanitarian system, has a particular responsibility to act as a role model and a trailblazer for a comprehensive perspective on protection.

There are a range of challenges to implementing the policy and to ensure the effective integration of protection for the purpose of addressing risks. Challenges include sufficient levels of resources allocated to protection and hiring and cultivating the right skill sets, including at the top level of the organization. WFP Member States have an important role to play in supporting WFP in addressing these and other challenges that stand in the way of implementing the policy. The BBL will therefore focus on raising Members' understanding of what the policy sets out to achieve and how they can support the work that lies ahead.

Petter Nilsson

Deputy Permanent Representative to WFP and IFAD

¹ IASC Principals' Statement on the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action (2013), and the IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action (2016).