Partnering for gender equality and food security in conflicts and post conflict settings

Side event first regular session of the Executive Board
Wednesday, 2 March 2022, 13:30–14:30
Virtual event on Zoom

You are kindly invited to the side event on Wednesday, 2 March 2022, which will be facilitated by WFP with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Context

WFP is launching a new gender policy which is to be adopted by the Executive Board at its 2022 first regular session. In this context it is important to build on lessons learned. WFP has from 2018 to 2021 piloted a global initiative to advance food security and nutrition objectives with a particular focus on women and girls. The initiative sought to strengthen the i) safety, dignity and rights of women and girls; ii) health and rights of beneficiaries; and iii) protection of women and girls from gender-based violence. This was done within the framework of the WFP gender policy, and with the expectation to put into action its objectives, and to explore new partnerships. Lessons learned helped provide inputs for the updated WFP gender policy.

The programme was implemented by WFP in partnership with UNFPA and local organizations at the country level, a total of eight countries participated: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Ecuador, Lebanon, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Sri Lanka. The initiative was funded by the Government of Denmark.

A retroactive lessons learned exercise, undertaken from October to December 2021, sought to harvest the most important achievements, challenges and lessons learned from this programme and showcase possible good practices. Among the findings were that the initiative leveraged both WFP and UNFPA mandates and operational capacities and in that way contributed to design and implement interventions that were able to comprehensively enhance women’s and girls’ empowerment. The pilot initiative further demonstrated that WFP country offices can expand their knowledge and engagement on women and girls’ empowerment by establishing new partnerships, as called for by the new WFP gender policy.

Objectives

This session will provide participants with examples from the pilot programme and the partnership with UNFPA and local actors and aim to stimulate discussions about new areas of focus for the updated WFP gender policy, particularly in conflict and post conflict settings.

Specifically, it will:

- Stimulate a discussion on how WFP may help respond to the needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings, and what the challenges and opportunities are. An important aspect is how to do this via partnerships with other United Nations agencies and local organizations.
• Showcase examples of innovative operational partnerships established by WFP to promote women and girls’ safety, access to health services and information in conflict and post-conflict settings.

• Discuss how lessons learned may apply to future humanitarian action and identify future opportunities for similar programmes in other countries and broader projects in the same countries.

**Agenda**

13:30  **Welcoming remarks**
- Mr David Kaatrud, Director, Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division, WFP

13:35  **Presentation: Partnering for gender equality and food security: lessons from WFP/UNFPA partnerships in conflict and post-conflict settings**
- Ms Brenda Behan, Director, Gender Office, WFP

13:45  **Panel discussion and Q&A**
- Moderator: Dorcas Erskine - TBC
- Ms Brenda Barton, former director of WFP Sri Lanka country office
- Mr Jean Martin Bauer, former director of WFP Republic of the Congo country office
- Ms Ulla Elisabeth Mueller, UNFPA CD, Nigeria
- Ms Vanessa Saraiva, Former World Vision Humanitarian and Protection Advisor, South Sudan

14:25  **Final remarks**
- Ms Mette Thygesen, Director, Department of Humanitarian Action, Civil Society and Engagement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark