



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK**



## **Partnering for Gender Equality & 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 the World Food Programme with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

### **Context**

WFP is launching a new gender policy which is to be adopted at the first regular session 2022 of the WFP Executive Board. In this context it is important to build on lessons learned. The 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) the 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 organisations 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 UN agencies and local organisations
- 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**

### Welcome remarks

- Mr. David Kaatrud, Director, Programme, Humanitarian and Development Department, WFP

### Presentation: Partnering for Gender Equality & Food Security: Lessons from WFP/UNFPA partnerships in conflict and post-conflict settings

- Ms. Brenda Behan, Director, Gender Office, WFP

### Panel discussion and Q&A

- Moderator: Dorcas Erskine, independent consultant
- Ms. Brenda Barton, former country director of WFP Sri Lanka country office
- Mr. Jean Martin Bauer, former country director of WFP Republic of Congo country office
- Ms. Ulla Elisabeth Mueller, UNFPA CD, Nigeria
- Ms. Vanessa Saraiva, Former World Vision Humanitarian & Protection Advisor, South Sudan

### Final remarks

- Ms. Mette Thygesen, Director, Department of Humanitarian Action, Civil Society and Engagement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark