

Panel discussion: "The Impact of Home-Grown School Feeding in Malawi"

Moderator & Speaker Biographies



Menghestab Haile Regional Director Southern Africa, WFP

Dr Haile has been with WFP since 1999 and has held various positions within the organization. Previously, he served as WFP Representative & Country Director in Egypt. Dr Haile has extensive experience in food security and early warning systems development, as well as expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing. He has also worked in policy advisory and management roles at WFP Headquarters and the Africa office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Before joining WFP, Dr Haile had diverse professional experiences, including being a university lecturer, research scientist, civil servant, and international consultant. He holds a PhD in Meteorology and is passionate about innovation, capacity building, and strategic partnerships for achieving sustainable development goals in areas such as food security monitoring and disaster risk management.



Maureen Maguza-Tembo

Deputy Director School Health and Nutrition, Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi

Ms Maguza-Tembo is responsible for nutrition and health for school aged children especially prevention of malnutrition and illness amongst learners. Key interventions under her jurisdiction include: school nutrition (school feeding programme, adolescent nutrition, nutrition education), school health (nutrition and health screening, HIV and AIDS prevention and adherence to treatment), water, sanitation and hygiene management in the schools, and, productive school environment (climate resilience, including reforestation and establishment of school orchards). Ms Maguza-Tembo holds a Masters of Science Degree in Rural Development and Extension and a Bachelor's Degree in Nutrition, Food Science and Management. She has vast experience working in nutrition for more than 20 years at various positions from community to policy level.



Paul Turnbull Country Director and Representative for Malawi, WFP

In post since June 2021, under Mr Turnbull's leadership, WFP's activities in Malawi has spanned relief cash/food aid to those affected by shocks, food assistance to refugees, malnutrition prevention, home-grown school feeding, resilience-building support for smallholder farmers and value chain actors, supply chain capacity strengthening, programme capacity development, and logistics cluster services. Mr. Turnbull's career with WFP includes serving as Deputy Country Director in Ethiopia (2018-2021) and Kenya (2013-2018) and Chief of the Programme Review and Support Unit at WFP's headquarters (2006-2013). He was also the Head of Programme in Ethiopia from 2001 to 2006, contributing to the development of the Productive Safety Net Programme. Mr. Turnbull worked with FAO from 1987 to 1994, serving in roles related to global information, early warning systems, and agriculture. He started his career with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) in Botswana. His academic background includes a Master of Agricultural Science in Tropical Agricultural Development from the University of Reading and a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in Agriculture from Wye College, University of London.



Carmen Burbano de Lara Director, School Feeding Division, WFP

With over 17 years of experience at WFP, Ms Burbano de Lara is dedicated to improving the nutrition, education, and well-being of children globally. Her focus revolves around addressing malnutrition, poor health, and learning while strengthening national safety net systems. She has held various management positions across different countries, including Peru, Rome, Colombia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, and Tanzania and has also provided temporary support for earthquake relief efforts in Haiti and Nepal. Ms Burbano de Lara is recognized as WFP's world expert in school feeding, providing guidance to governments such as China, Colombia, Kenya, and Ghana, often in collaboration with the World Bank. She has authored influential publications on school feeding, including "Re-imagining school feeding: a human capital investment in health, education, social protection, and agriculture" (2018), "School Feeding Sourcebook" (2016), and "Rethinking School Feeding: (2009) published by the World Bank. Ms Burbano de Lara also crafted WFP's Global School Feeding Policy (2013) and authored "The State of School Feeding Worldwide" (2013). Before taking her current role in July 2018, she was WFP's Representative and Country Director in Peru and worked with UNDP's Executive Office. Ms Burbano de Lara possesses a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University, along with Bachelors Degree in Latin-American Studies and Comparative Literature from New York University.