

Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to accelerate WFP's fight against hunger

Side event on the margins of the annual session of the Executive Board, 2025

Wednesday, 25 June 2025, 13:30–14:30

WFP auditorium and webcast

During the first session of the Executive Board in February 2025, Executive Director Cindy McCain announced the launch of the [WFP global artificial intelligence strategy](#), emphasizing the power of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to “revolutionize the humanitarian sphere, enhancing decision making, boosting efficiency and targeting resources better”. The ability of AI to help WFP work smarter, respond faster and stretch resources further for those in need is particularly relevant at this critical juncture of shrinking resources for life-saving humanitarian work.

Co-sponsored by the governments of Luxembourg, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, this event will showcase how WFP is leveraging AI solutions, responsibly harnessed and guided by the AI strategy, to effectively bridge the widening gap between humanitarian needs and available resources and help fight global food insecurity while ensuring that actions are grounded in the principle of “do no harm”. While AI holds tremendous promise to make a meaningful difference for the populations we serve, it also requires careful consideration of the challenges and risks associated with its use.

WFP's AI strategy builds on its global data strategy 2024–2026 and the foundational information and technology strategy 2023–2026 and paves the way for scaling across the organization, ensuring responsible and ethical integration to maximize humanitarian impact.

Strategic partnerships with Member States, the private sector, and academic and research institutions will be crucial to fulfilling the Executive Director's vision for WFP “to be a leader in harnessing AI's power to transform humanitarian operations while ensuring appropriate safeguards.”

This side event to the Executive Board aims to:

1. **Showcase how AI is already being leveraged to transform WFP operations, optimize resources and accelerate impact**, highlighting examples from the roll-out of AI-powered deduplication of beneficiary data in Mali and the Modern Data Platform in the Syrian Arab Republic, underscoring the fact that the effective use of AI is predicated on well-managed and well-governed data.
2. **Discuss further opportunities for WFP to use AI to augment capacity and achieve efficiencies at scale**, looking beyond current initiatives to consider the far-reaching opportunities that AI may offer WFP to achieve even greater impact, at all levels of its operations and engagement with partners.
3. **Highlight the role that Member States and external partners can play in helping WFP leverage AI responsibly and at scale**, fostering a common understanding of the different ways in which Member States and the private sector can partner with WFP to achieve lasting impact for communities on the ground.

Agenda

Opening remarks

- Ms Cindy McCain, Executive Director, WFP

Introduction to the side event and overview of the AI strategy

- Mr Stephen Omollo, Assistant Executive Director, Workplace Management, WFP

Video: Harnessing AI to transform WFP's operations

Introduction of the panellists

- Mr Magan Naidoo, Chief Data Officer, WFP

Interventions by panellists: How governments/Member States and the private sector can help WFP harness AI and achieve the vision laid out in the AI strategy

- Mr Max Lamesch, Director for Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- Mr Rami Abi Akl, Chief Digital and AI Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of France
- Mr Toby Parker, Chargé d'affaires, United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome
- Ms Sasha Rubel, Head of AI/Generative AI Policy, Europe, Middle East and Africa, Amazon Web Services
- Mr Jean-Martin Bauer, Director, Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Service, WFP

Audience reflections and Q&A

- Moderated by Mr Magan Naidoo, Chief Data Officer, WFP

Closing remarks

- Mr Magan Naidoo, Chief Data Officer, WFP

(WFP global artificial intelligence strategy 2025–2027 is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#).)