

## Social protection at scale: A pathway to zero hunger

Exhibit on the margins of the annual session of the Executive Board, 2026  
Wednesday, 24 June 2026, 8:45–9:30  
Red Foyer, WFP headquarters

The World Food Programme invites Executive Board delegates to an exhibit on social protection as a strategic platform for zero hunger. It offers an opportunity to explore how social protection can bridge humanitarian action and long-term development, helping countries move beyond emergency response toward sustained solutions that reach the most vulnerable before, during, and after crises.

### Summary

Social protection reaches 4.7 billion people in low- and middle-income countries today. Yet 1.6 billion do not have access to it, and those left out are usually the most vulnerable: people in fragile and conflict-affected settings, exposed to climate shocks, facing persistent hunger. The systems that could protect them either do not exist, do not reach them, or collapse precisely when they are needed most. WFP works with governments in 70 countries to change that, helping design, strengthen and expand systems that reached nearly 870 million people in 2025.

Social protection reduces poverty and vulnerability, protects food security and equips households to withstand shocks. When nationally owned and well-designed, it is one of the more durable investments a country can make toward ending hunger. WFP's first strategic evaluation of its contribution to social protection confirms the organization's growing role as a trusted partner, combining field presence, operational scale, analytical capacities and food security and nutrition expertise across humanitarian response and long-term development.

The exhibit draws on WFP's footprint and real country experience to explore what it takes to build systems that deliver these outcomes – in fragile settings, in climate-exposed contexts, and at scale. Through visual panels, it translates national policy choices into human outcomes, showing what social protection looks like when it works.

### Objectives

The exhibit aims to:

- Show the value of nationally owned social protection systems, and how WFP helps make that happen, from policy design to delivery, in contexts where it is hardest.
- Ground WFP's role in real country experience, exploring, through concrete examples, how it supports governments to design, deliver and sustain social protection systems in different contexts.
- Continue the dialogue with Executive Board delegates, donors and partners on the evidence for social protection – what works, what it costs, and what stronger investment could mean for reducing hunger and long-term humanitarian need.

## Exhibit opening agenda

All participants are warmly invited to join us in the Peace Garden for morning coffee and refreshments starting at 08:30, after which we will proceed together to the Red Foyer.

**Master of ceremonies:** Ms Ilaria Dettori, Director, Nutrition, School Meals and Social Protection Service, WFP

08:45–08:48	<p><b>Opening and welcome (3 minutes)</b></p> <p>Ms Ilaria Dettori, Director, Nutrition, School Meals and Social Protection Service, WFP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomes visitors, donors, partners and colleagues.</li> <li>• Introduces the speakers.</li> </ul>
08:48–08:55	<p><b>Keynote address (7 minutes)</b></p> <p>Mr Matthew Hollingworth, Assistant Executive Director, Programme Operations Department, WFP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasizes the urgency of scaling social protection as a cornerstone of global efforts to end hunger, calling for stronger political commitment, sustained financing and collective action to close persistent coverage gaps.</li> <li>• Highlights WFP’s role as a trusted partner to governments in delivering at scale.</li> </ul>
08:55–09:00	<p><b>Remarks from Germany (5 minutes)</b></p> <p>Dr Henning Plate, Deputy Director General from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shares perspectives on how joined forces can effectively support partner countries in building adaptive social protection systems.</li> </ul>
09:00–09:05	<p><b>Remarks from Colombia (5 minutes)</b></p> <p>H.E. Ms Jhenifer Mojica Flórez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Rome-Based Agencies, Colombia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shares perspectives in developing and strengthening social protection systems.</li> </ul>
09:05–09:10	<p><b>Remarks from Tanzania (5 minutes)</b></p> <p>H.E. Mr Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Rome-Based Agencies, Tanzania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlights on progress and priorities in advancing social protection.</li> </ul>
09:10–09:25	<p><b>Guided tour of the exhibition (15 minutes)</b></p> <p>H.E. Mr Tanguy Stehelin, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Rome-Based Agencies, France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A guided walkthrough of the exhibition highlighting WFP’s approach to strengthening social protection systems across contexts. Guests will explore key thematic areas – system building blocks, shock-responsive social protection, climate risk financing and nutrition-sensitive approaches – through selected country examples. The tour will illustrate how WFP supports governments in connecting policy, financing and delivery systems to reach vulnerable populations at scale before, during and after crises.</li> </ul>

09:25

**End of the event and request to proceed to the Auditorium for the beginning of the Board morning session**