



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**



REACHING THE FURTHEST BEHIND: WFP'S INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PROTECTION

Side event on the margins of the annual session of the Executive Board
Tuesday, 19 June 2018 from 13:15 – 14:45
Auditorium, WFP Headquarters

Context

Protecting affected people by contributing to their safety, dignity and integrity is essential to any humanitarian action, and is an important contribution to creating conditions in which communities can re-establish livelihoods and build resilience to future crises. The close linkages between protecting the most vulnerable in WFP's protection approach and the 2030 Agenda commitment to "leave no one behind" present an opportunity to unpack the relevance of protection to the implementation of WFP's Strategic Plan (2017–2021) and the Integrated Road Map that reflects the aspirations set out in the 2030 Agenda.

Switzerland has long recognized protection as an important humanitarian topic and has systematically supported WFP's efforts on protection over recent years. It is on this basis that Switzerland has a particular stake in inviting a greater emphasis on protection within WFP.

This event comes as the results of an external evaluation of WFP's Protection Policy are presented to the Executive Board. While the evaluation recognizes achievements, it also detects a lack of corporate commitment and the need to invest greater resources in protection. This side event will provide a platform for WFP to address the evaluation's findings and court Board Members' support in a structured way that supports the roll out of the 2030 Agenda and WFP's Strategic Plan.

Objective

The event will feature the strategic and operational importance of integrating protection across all activities of WFP and reflect on the progress WFP has made in applying a protection-sensitive approach to its programmes. In an environment where they are better protected, beneficiary communities should also be able to re-establish their livelihoods and strengthen their resilience to future crises. The event will present good practices and explore the potential of WFP to enhance the protective impact of its programmes and how this contributes to the operationalization of the triple nexus.

The event will likewise consider linkages between integrating protection and other areas central to ensuring the rights of affected people, including accountability to affected people, identity management and gender, to demonstrate how these are mutually supportive and complementary to a holistic approach for engaging with affected people to support their food security and nutrition.

Outcomes

The objective of the event will serve to increase understanding of:

- **importance of an integrated approach to protection** to strategically support and boost the Integrated Road Map/country strategic plan process;
- how the protection approach supports the **“leave no one behind”** agenda and strengthens the emphasis on vulnerabilities.
- the benefits of **embracing a holistic approach** to engaging with beneficiaries and ensuring their rights; and
- importance of **prioritizing and investing in a protection** approach at all levels (Headquarters, regional bureaux and country offices).

Format

The event will be hosted by Switzerland and will bring together both WFP voices and external experts to discuss best practices in WFP and reflect on the opportunities and challenges for moving forward. It follows an event hosted by Sweden on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, serving to place protection as fundamental to WFP’s efforts to achieve results across humanitarian, development and peace efforts.

Panellists

- Dr Michelle Sanson, Senior Protection Advisor, WFP
- Mr Jan Egeland, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council
- Ms Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, Operations Services, WFP

The event will be chaired by H.E. Manuel Bessler, Delegate of the Swiss Government for Humanitarian Aid and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit.

Agenda

- 13:10 – Lunch in the Peace Garden
- 13:35 – H.E. Manuel Bessler, Welcome and opening remarks
- 13:45 – Dr Michelle Sanson, A WFP field perspective: what happens when protection is neglected
- 13:55 – Mr Jan Egeland, “Leaving no one behind” – assisting the most vulnerable
- 14:05 – Ms Valerie Guarnieri, WFP’s strategic approach to protection
- 14:15 – Facilitated discussion and questions and answers
- 14:40 – H.E. Manuel Bessler, closing remarks