

Partnerships for Peace Round Table Concept Note

Thursday, 3 June 2021, 14:00–17:00

Virtual Event via ZOOM

Background and Context

The Executive Board (EB) Bureau (EBB) has asked the World Food Programme (WFP) to facilitate engagement between EB Members and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), who are WFP's Cooperating Partners (CPs), under the overall theme of "Partnerships for Peace".

Among the 690 million hungry people in the world, 60 percent live in countries affected by conflict, and conflict and insecurity are the key drivers of acute hunger in eight out of 10 of the world's main food crises. WFP and its NGO partners actively contribute to peace, from direct humanitarian assistance in conflict settings to supporting peace efforts and investing in prevention.

The 2020 Nobel Peace Prize award recognizes the link between conflict and hunger and WFP's work with partners to break that chain, and WFP's partnership with the Stockholm International Peace and Research Institute (SIPRI) highlights that WFP and partners have the capability and reach to contribute to peace in various contexts, especially at the local level.

This brings opportunities to delve further into what WFP and its partners can do together to deliver more peace to more people, working across the spectrum of saving lives and changing lives. What are the complementary and reinforcing actions that WFP and its NGO partners can perform to this effect?

Objective

Every year WFP partners with around 800 NGOs, the majority of which are local or community based. Their strong links in the community are key to the success of our joint work.

This Partnerships for Peace Round Table will discuss the challenges, opportunities and strategies for WFP and NGO partners – both local and international. It will put our partnerships into focus so we can learn how we can collectively do better.

Results are only possible if we are innovative in our programming and most importantly if we make strong investments in our operational partnerships.

These conversations will also help us to better understand the realities on the ground and the unique role, perspectives and value added of the wide range of actors that WFP works with.

Participation

A selection of local and international NGOs who partner with WFP in conflict settings will be invited to participate.

Format and rollout

Following opening remarks, a brief overview of the consultations that have already taken place with NGO partners as part of the development of WFP's Strategic Plan 2022-26 will be given. This will be followed by three panel discussions with most of the time allocated for questions and other inputs from participants.

Each of the three panels will address a different question for discussion. Each panel will be made up of a mix of WFP, International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and local NGO colleagues who will be asked to approach the topic from a strategic partnership angle.

After the presentations by the panel members, further points may be added by other participants and questions will be taken from the floor. Questions may be sent in advance to the WFP NGO Unit at wfp.ngounit@wfp.org

Discussion 1: Putting Peace into Practice

How have you incorporated a focus on conflict and peace in your programming? What have you learned and what opportunities do you see in strengthening our partnerships? From your perspective, what are the main barriers to incorporating peace in programming in conflict settings, and how can we overcome them?

Discussion 2: Breaking the Hunger-Conflict Cycle

Hunger and conflict are two negative drivers that send societies into a downward spiral. What do we, as partners, each focus on, and how can we leverage our own comparative advantages, taking into account the reality of conflict settings?

Discussion 3: Disseminating and Applying Resolutions

With a specific focus on implementing SC Res 2417

In 2018, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2417 addressing Conflict and Hunger was unanimously adopted. What can we collectively do to improve awareness and ensure the application of such resolutions, especially given the current global attention on famine?

Follow-Up

A summary of the Partnerships for Peace Round Table will be circulated to participants and follow-up will be part of regular or ad-hoc consultation processes.