



HUMANITARIAN
DEVELOPMENT
PEACE

IMPROVING THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE: DOES WFP HAVE A ROLE?

*Sharing initial findings from SIPRI's research on
WFP's contributions to improving the prospects for peace*

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

Monday, 10 June 2019, 13:45 – 14:45

Aula I | Aula Delegatis, WFP headquarters

Context

Conflicts are on the rise. Since 2013 there has been a two-fold increase in the number of crises directly related to or caused by armed conflict. Today, an estimated two billion people live in fragile and conflict-affected areas of the world, where they are extremely vulnerable to the impact of conflicts and disasters. There are more crises, affecting more people, and lasting longer today than a decade ago. It is estimated that today, 80 per cent of (year-on-year) humanitarian funds are directed to countries impacted by conflict. In turn, armed conflict is the most significant obstacle for the achievement of Zero Hunger – as for most of the other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is a clear and urgent need to shift the way the UN, international and local actors operate in these settings in order to prevent and end need and support the Secretary-General's Sustaining Peace Agenda.

In these conflict settings the World Food Programme's (WFP) operational reach is significant, accessing remote and difficult-to-reach areas. WFP is known to the households and communities it serves. Moreover, it works at all levels, including subnational and national level, to support wherever possible national hunger solutions through a range of interventions. This presence comes with a responsibility to ensure that our role within the humanitarian-development-peace spectrum is clearly articulated and better supports the broader efforts of the international community.

Given this context, in 2018 WFP and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) joined forces in a new knowledge partnership. A research team with experts from both institutions set off to different countries to help unveil what WFP's role is or could be in the "peace corner" of the triple nexus, in different contexts.



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



**World Food
Programme**

Are WFP's humanitarian and development interventions contributing to improving the prospects for peace? What could WFP do more, better or different to maximize such contributions, and to measure them? Which partnerships should it invest in? Is WFP programming conflict-sensitive?

These were some of the lines of enquiry that WFP and SIPRI aimed to unpack in Phase 1 of the initiative and provide initial answers to.

During this event, SIPRI will present preliminary findings and share the first global report from this knowledge partnership. The debate will delve into implications for WFP and link to the broader picture of the UN Reform and partnerships in the triple nexus era.

Sweden is co-hosting this event with WFP and has been supporting the partnership with SIPRI since the start. The partnership was also prominently featured at the recent Stockholm Peace and Development Forum, organized by Sweden in collaboration with SIPRI.

Objectives

- Share initial findings of the SIPRI research on WFP's contributions to improving the prospects for peace, including engaging in a debate with a selected Country Office involved in this first phase of the research
- Discuss with panellists what this means for WFP moving ahead and possible implications for the wider humanitarian system
- Launch the preliminary SIPRI report

Panel Members

- Mr David Beasley, WFP Executive Director
- H.E. Per Olsson Fridh, State Secretary to the Minister of International Development Cooperation, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Mr Dan Smith, Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- Ms Silvia Caruso, WFP Country Director, Mali

Chair

- The event will be chaired by Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, Operations Services Department

Agenda

- Welcome & Opening Remarks – AED Operations Services Department (5 mins)
- Video on WFP/SIPRI partnership (4 mins)
- Panel discussion (Chair poses questions to all panellists - 30 mins)
- Questions from the floor (15 mins)
- Closing remarks and launch of the report – Mr David Beasley, WFP Executive Director (5 mins)