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Coordination in emergencies: The role of clusters

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

Co-sponsored by the Governments of Belgium, Luxembourg and Mozambique

Wednesday, 12 June 2019, 13:45 – 14:45

Auditorium, WFP headquarters

Lunch will be served in the Peace Garden from 13:15 – 13:45

Context

Since its adoption in 2005, the cluster approach has contributed to strengthening response capacity, coordination and accountability in humanitarian response operations by enhancing partnerships and formalizing the lead role of different organizations in the following sectors: camp coordination and camp management, education, early recovery, emergency telecommunications, food security, health, logistics, nutrition, protection, shelter, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH).

Originally designed as a scale-up mechanism for sudden onset disasters such as Cyclone Idai, the clusters are increasingly operating in complex and protracted crises where the bulk of the World Food Programme's (WFP) operations evolve.

Given its unique experience in the sectors of emergency telecommunications, logistics and food security, WFP has been appointed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to lead the Emergency Telecommunications and Logistics Clusters and co-lead with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) the Food Security Cluster. The Engagement of WFP in these areas is a testament of its commitment to partnerships and contribution to collective outcomes. Responding with limited resources to an ever increasing number of crises is only possible through partnerships, coordination and cooperation without which there is neither an effective nor an efficient response.

Objectives

To highlight the unique position of WFP, and to stress the importance of inter-organizational coordination, it is proposed to take the opportunity of the 2019 annual session of the Executive Board of WFP to exchange on this unique role among diplomatic representations to the United Nations agencies in Rome and senior management of WFP both in Rome and in project areas.

The side event would serve to showcase WFP's leadership in forging global partnerships and providing services to the humanitarian community towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 by allowing a deep dive into challenges and opportunities of the cluster approach. The objective of the side event is to create awareness of the advantages of having WFP as cluster lead or co-lead agency, both for WFP and its partners at global, regional and local level.

The event will be hosted by His Excellency Frank Carruet, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Rome-based agencies of the United Nations and moderated by His Excellency Paul Dühr, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. His Excellency César Francisco De Gouveia Júnior, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique will reflect on the impact of the three clusters on the overall humanitarian response following the devastation of cyclones Kenneth and Idai.

Through presentations and inputs by the ambassadors, senior management of WFP and global cluster coordinators, the audience will be presented with concrete examples of the work of the clusters with a focus on the efficiency gains obtained through coordination between humanitarian stakeholders.

Tentative agenda

- Welcoming and opening statement by His Excellency Frank Carruet, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Rome-based agencies of the United Nations (5 min)
- The importance of WFP's role in coordination and engagement with partners, by a senior representative of WFP (Executive Director Mr David Beasley) (5 min)
- The impact the work of the three clusters have on an overall humanitarian response: the case of Mozambique, presented by His Excellency César Francisco De Gouveia Júnior (5 min)
- Overview, scope and impact of the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster by the Global Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Coordinator Mr Jalal Shah (5 min)
- Overview, scope and impact of the Food Security Cluster (FSC) by the Global FSC Coordinator Mr Bruno Minjauw (5 min)
- Overview, scope and impact of the Logistics Cluster by the Global Logistics Cluster Coordinator Mr Stephen Cahill (5 min)
- Key challenges and cross-cutting issues affecting the work of the three clusters by Mrs Margot Van Der Velden, Director of Emergencies (5 min)
- Q&A session moderated by His Excellency Paul Dühr, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (20 min)
- Closing remarks by His Excellency Paul Dühr, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (2 min)