



## Engagement to Address the Dire Nutrition Situation in Madagascar

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

Wednesday, 12 June 2019, 08:45 to 09:45

Aula 1, WFP Headquarters

Breakfast will be served from 08:30 to 08:45

You are kindly invited to a briefing on the nutrition situation in Madagascar. The WFP Regional Director for Southern Africa, Ms Lola Castro, will provide an overview of the issues that Madagascar is facing and why they are so challenging to address. H.E. Naina Andriantsitohaina, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Madagascar will discuss the Government's commitment to address the key issues at hand. H.R.H. Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, WFP Special Adviser on Mother and Child Health and Nutrition, will share her experience from her recent mission in Madagascar, highlighting the challenges faced by the women and children in the Grand Sud. The side event will be moderated by Ms Lauren Landis, Director of the Nutrition Division, WFP.

### **Context**

Madagascar has one of the highest levels of food insecurity and stunting in the world. Chronic malnutrition and years of drought have left the country, especially the southern region in serious need of support.

Madagascar's 2016 Cost of Hunger in Africa study estimated the country loses USD 1.53 billion per year (14.5 percent) of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) because of child malnutrition, and 43.9 percent of child mortality is associated with undernutrition. Almost half of children under five years of age are stunted (47 percent), the fifth highest rate in the world and there are more malnourished children now than 10 years ago. Stunting is correlated with inadequate dietary quantity and quality, low birthweight and low maternal education. In Madagascar, over one-third of women are mothers before they reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Anemia affects 35 percent of women aged 15 to 49 years and 50 percent of children under five years of age. Global acute malnutrition affects 8.2 percent of children under-five. Child and maternal mortality remain equally high at 56 per 1,000 and 440 per 100,000 respectively, and it is estimated that 60,000 individuals develop Tuberculosis every year.

The number of out-of-school children aged 6 to 12 in Madagascar, is estimated at 1.6 million. Populations in the southern regions of Anosy, Androy, Atsimo Andrefana are affected by high rates of food insecurity and experience some of the lowest school performance indicators in the country. In urban areas, children from the poorest households have the highest drop-out rates.

To address these issues, the Government has developed a national nutrition action plan with all its partners which identifies the main nutrition-sensitive and specific interventions that need to be implemented at scale to reduce stunting and all forms of malnutrition. To achieve this, a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder and multi-year approach is necessary.

The National School Feeding Programme is an integral part of the 2018-2022 Sectorial Plan for Education, and school canteens are integrated into the national plan for nutrition (PNAN III). Additionally, a School Feeding National Policy has been developed covering 2017-2021, and since 2015 the Government has set aside funds to promote school nutrition.

## **Objectives**

The side event is an opportunity for the Executive Board Members to be updated on the serious food insecurity and nutrition situation in Madagascar. More specifically, the side event will:

- Discuss how to address the line between the development and the humanitarian context in Madagascar;
- Highlight the Government commitment, represented by H.E. Naina Andriantsitohaina, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to support the most affected regions of Madagascar and explain national development plans;
- Inform the Executive Board Membership of the key programmes to address undernutrition in the country and what the effects of ignoring both the chronic and emergency issues will be.

## **Agenda**

### **Welcome remarks (5 minutes)**

- Ms Valerie Guarnieri, *Assistant Executive Director, Operations Services Department, WFP*

### **Moderated Panel Discussion (30 minutes)**

- Ms Lauren Landis, *Director, Nutrition Division, WFP* (moderator)
- H.E. Naina Andriantsitohaina, *Minister of Foreign Affairs in Madagascar*  
Will discuss the Government's commitment to address the key issues at hand.
- Ms Lola Castro, *Regional Director for Southern Africa and Indian States, WFP*  
Short presentation providing an update on the nutrition situation that Madagascar is facing and why the issues are so challenging to address.
- HRH Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, *WFP Special Adviser on Mother and Child Health and Nutrition*  
Will share experiences from her recent mission to Madagascar, highlighting the challenges for the women and children especially in the Grand Sud and innovative activities implemented to encourage food diversity, female inclusion in decision-making and change, and the needs for immediate and sustainable action on food security and nutrition.

### **Moderated Q&A session and remarks from the floor (20 minutes)**

### **Closing remarks (5 minutes)**

- Mr Moumini Ouedraogo, *Country Director, Madagascar, WFP*