



Social protection and WFP's dual role: supporting millions of people while helping governments to support billions

Side event on the margins of the annual session of the Executive Board, 2021

Wednesday, 23 June 2021, 13:30–14:30

Virtual Event via ZOOM

The Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division of the World Food Programme (WFP) is inviting Executive Board members, observers and partners to a side event on advancing WFP's dual role in saving and changing lives through social protection for Zero Hunger. The event will be facilitated by WFP in cooperation with the Government of Pakistan.

Context

WFP has supported government-led social protection effectively for decades, providing technical and operational expertise to enable governments to design and deliver social protection solutions that meet people's essential needs and manage risks, shocks and stresses. WFP's social protection work bridges the critical divide between development and humanitarian action, working across the nexus for both saving lives and changing lives.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought social protection to the forefront of WFP's work as governments around the world turned to their national systems to respond to the socioeconomic fallout of the disease. WFP's ability to provide immediate support to governments' social protection responses in this unique situation was made possible by our long-standing engagements with national actors.

The level of hunger around the world has been growing alongside the increasing frequency of conflict and climatic shocks, and the world looks to a future with an increasing gap between humanitarian needs and the ability of donor governments to meet them financially. In this context, social protection solutions that bridge the humanitarian, development and peace space are becoming more important, and bring with them the need for more complementary partnerships across this nexus to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

Supporting governments to serve vulnerable and food and nutrition insecure populations at scale through established, emerging or future national social protection systems is an important way for WFP to operationalize its global commitment to help achieve Zero Hunger.

To better guide WFP's efforts in this evolving context, the organization has gone through a process of consolidation and reflection to develop a new social protection strategy. The strategy represents a maturation and updated framing of WFP's work in this area to prepare for its engagement in social protection in the years ahead.

Objectives

The side event will familiarize Member States with how WFP is contributing to national social protection and supporting governments to achieve their social protection objectives. This includes working alongside other partners to strengthen social protection around the world and providing thought leadership in key areas of interest to the global social protection community. The side event is an opportunity to look back at what has been done in the past and discuss WFP's social protection vision and priorities going forward.



Agenda

- 13:30-13:35 Welcome and opening remarks**
- Ms Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department, WFP
- 13:35-13:45 The importance of WFP in supporting national social protection objectives**
- Dr Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant of Pakistan's Prime Minister and Federal Minister, Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division, Government of Pakistan
- 13:45-14:05 WFP's diverse and established work in social protection**
- Ms Sarah Laughton, Chief, Social Protection Unit, WFP
 - Video screening on WFP's work in social protection
 - Interventions by global partners
- 14:05-14:15 A forward-looking social protection strategy**
- Mr David Kaatrud, Director, Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division, WFP
- 14:15-14:30 Q&A session and closing remarks**