



*Friends of WFP Nutrition Event*  
**Brownbag Lunch: Conflict and Malnutrition**

Thursday, 9 December 2021, 12:30 – 13:30

Virtual online Zoom event

### **Overview**

You are kindly invited to a Brownbag Lunch on Conflict and Malnutrition taking place online through zoom on Thursday, 9 December 2021, 12:30–13:30. The session, will be moderated by **Mr Paul Kiernan**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the Rome-based agencies and Chair of the Friends of WFP Nutrition.

### **Context**

Building on the previous Friends of WFP Nutrition Brown Bag in April 2021 on Conflict and Malnutrition, this follow-up event aims to continue the conversation on nutrition in fragile settings, highlighting the importance of resilience as an essential element for ensuring good nutrition and sustainable development in peace efforts. It will also highlight WFP's efforts for evidence-building and research around peace and will bring updates from WFP Syrian Arab Republic, South Sudan and Yemen country offices on how this context influences nutrition programming.

Conflict and malnutrition are closely linked. Violent conflict is one of the main drivers of hunger and malnutrition, and often occurs in parallel with climate shocks, natural disasters and economic crisis. Inversely, food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition fuel conflict, as they impact people's livelihoods and communities, exacerbating existing tensions. Multiple factors related to conflict also influence food availability and access, shifting dietary patterns and increasing the risks of all forms of malnutrition.

With the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to WFP, 2021 has been an important year for advancing the Peace Agenda, one that has highlighted the critical role that food assistance plays in breaking the deadly spiral of violence and malnutrition. In these contexts, it is essential that we address both the immediate dietary, health and nutritional needs for communities in conflict settings, as well as the underlying causes of malnutrition, ensuring resilience to future shocks and stressors for the most vulnerable populations.

### **Objectives**

This session will offer a unique opportunity for WFP Member States to learn more about malnutrition in fragile and conflict settings and the importance of resilience work for sustainability and durable solutions, while reflecting on next steps to ensure quality nutrition programmes.



More specifically, the session will aim to:

- Familiarize WFP Executive Board Member States with nutrition in fragile contexts, looking at resilience, early warning, and prevention, and making connections to the peace agenda.
- Share WFP's plans moving forward for nutrition, conflict and programming, focusing on research and evidence building as key contributors to unpacking linkages.
- Updates from WFP Syrian Arab Republic, South Sudan, and Yemen country offices to highlight the way forward for nutrition programming in the context of conflict and peace.

## **Agenda**

### **1. Welcome and opening remarks**

- **Mr Paul Kiernan**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland, and Chair of the Friends of WFP Nutrition.
- **Ms Abigail Perry**, Director, Nutrition Division, WFP

### **2. Voices from the field**

- **Mr Sean O'Brien**, Country Director, Syrian Arab Republic, WFP
- **Mr Matthew Hollingworth**, Country Director, South Sudan, WFP
- **Mr Mark Gordon**, Deputy Country Director, Yemen, WFP

### **3. Building evidence**

- **Ms Caroline Delgado**, Senior Researcher and Director, Food, Peace and Security Programme, SIPRI

### **4. The way forward**

- **Ms Danny Harvey**, Executive Director, Concern Worldwide UK

### **5. Q&A session and remarks from the floor** *(moderated by Mr Paul Kiernan)*

### **6. Closing remarks**

- **Ms Abigail Perry**, Director, Nutrition Division, WFP
- **Mr Paul Kiernan**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland, and Chair of the Friends of WFP Nutrition.