

World Food Day virtual ceremony
Friday, October 16, 2020

Theme: “Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our Actions are our Future.”

Speaking time – 3 minutes – you and the IFAD President are the closing speakers.

- Your Majesty King Letsie III [of Lesotho];
- Your Majesty Queen Letizia of Spain;
- Excellencies...ladies and gentlemen...
- This year’s theme highlights the global commitment and...
- Concerted action that’s urgently needed if we’re serious about...
- Ensuring every child has access to a healthy and nutritious diet.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has made our task much, much harder.
- As you’ve heard me warn many times in recent months...
- Without urgent and sustained action by the international community...
- We are facing a hunger pandemic of frightening proportions.
- Today WFP is launching our *Cost of a Plate of Food 2020*.
- It graphically illustrates the devastating impact that...
- That conflict...droughts and floods... and now COVID...
- Is having on the food security of the world’s poorest people.
- South Sudan again has the world’s most expensive plate of food:
 - A basic meal costs 186% of average daily income;
 - Equivalent to \$393 dollars for a New Yorker.

- So it's no surprise that in South Sudan:
 - Up to 8 million people face crisis levels of food insecurity;
 - Famine is a dangerous possibility in parts of the country
- Tragically, this picture is being repeated in other nations...
- Such as Yemen...DRC...and Burkina Faso.
- We have to act fast and we have to act decisively...
- Because 270 million people are marching toward the brink of starvation.
- When you hear these statistics it's easy to feel despair...
- But we shouldn't... because there is:
 - \$360 trillion of wealth in the world.
- So we have the resources to fix these problems...
- But we all have to be prepared to play our part.
- And that includes those who have the most...to them I say...
- It's time to help your brothers and sisters who have the least...
- And who are hurting like never before because of the pandemic.
- But if we're really serious about making hunger history...
- We also have to end the conflict and violence that fuels it.
- Instead of sticking a Band-Aid on the problem...
- We need to work together as partners to support...
- Long-term, sustainable economic development.

- Government, the private sector, wealthy individuals, UN agencies and NGOs...
- All sharing expertise, know-how and resources...
- To honor our pledge to create a Zero Hunger world.
- Because our actions are our children's future...
- And there is no time to lose.