



FAO Conference 40th Session

Rome, 3 - 8 July 2017

Side Event

Looking for sustainable solutions to fight famine in conflict situations

FAO and WFP working together to save lives and livelihoods

FAO headquarters Rome

Thursday 6 July 2017

12.30 to 14.00 hours

Iraq Room (A-235)

Background

The world is facing one of the largest food crises in decades, with 30 million people in four countries – northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen – severely food insecure, with many at risk of famine. Famine was declared in parts of South Sudan in February 2017 and despite some improvement to the food security situation in the famine affected areas, more than 1 million people across the country remain at risk of famine.

These four major food crises are largely driven by protracted conflicts. Conflicts are forcing people to abandon their homes and their lands. As agricultural seasons are repeatedly missed and livelihoods abandoned, the humanitarian caseload builds and the number of people on the brink of famine keeps rising. With approximately 80 percent of the affected populations relying on agriculture for their livelihoods, we must invest now in pulling people back from the brink – agriculture can no longer be an afterthought. Yet operating in such challenging context remains very difficult for issues related to access and security.

A combination of food assistance and emergency food production support is the only way to make any dent in the scale of hunger we are witnessing in these four countries. FAO and WFP are working very closely to ensure that food assistance is linked to emergency agricultural support as much as possible to save lives, protect livelihoods and build resilience.

Purpose of the event

To brief member countries on the latest food security situation in northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, and to update on the ongoing response by FAO and WFP with a particular focus on the joint efforts to “Work together to save lives and livelihoods”. The event will also be an opportunity to provide a perspective for durable solutions in conflict situations.

This event is to be seen as part of FAO and WFP commitment to brief member states on a monthly basis.

Languages: English, French, Spanish

This side event is co-chaired by FAO and WFP:

Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director-General, Programmes, FAO, and
Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, WFP



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Agenda

- 12.30–12.40** Opening of the session by Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director-General, Programmes, FAO
- 12.40–12.45** Video
- 12.45–13.00** Update on the current food situation in the four countries
Presentation by Luca Russo, FAO Senior Food Crises Analyst
- 13.00–13.20** Update on response by the two agencies and challenges faced
Joint WFP and FAO presentation by Dominique Burgeon, Director of Emergencies, FAO and Arif Husain, Chief Economist, WFP
- 13.20–13.25** Intervention by H.E. Hinrich Thölken, Ambassador of Germany, Permanent Representative to the UN Agencies in Rome
- 13.25–13.30** Intervention by H.E. Ahmed Bin Ahmed Al-Maisari, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of Yemen (by videoconference)
- 13.30–13.35** Intervention by H.E. Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran, Minister Permanent Representative of Nigeria to FAO
- 13.35–13.40** Intervention by H.E. Hagi Abdulkadir Ibrahim, Ambassador of Somalia to FAO
- 13.40–13.45** Intervention by H.E. Ms Natalina Edward Mou, Deputy Head of Mission for South Sudan
- 13.45–13.55** Closure of the session by Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, WFP

Related link: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/crisis/fightingfamine/en/>

Twitter hashtag: #FightingFamine