

Sharing experiences in the fight against gender-based violence in humanitarian and food insecurity contexts

Side event on the margins of the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board

Wednesday, 28 November 2018, 13:15 – 14:45

Peace Garden and Auditorium, WFP Headquarters

Context

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an international campaign, which takes place each year and runs from 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, the Human Rights Day.

In 2018, and in accordance with its mandate, the World Food Programme (WFP) Campaign theme is: *“Orange the World – Support gender-based violence survivors”*.

The 2018 WFP Campaign will primarily focus on:

- showing solidarity – with GBV survivors; and
- increasing visibility – of efforts to tackle GBV, by both WFP and partners.

Every year WFP and its partners organize events in WFP headquarters, regional bureaux, country offices and field offices to show engagement to end gender-based violence and solidarity with survivors.

Spain has set a record for number of women in the Government (65 percent) and is strongly committed to gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment. It supports the eradication of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls. This commitment also applies to international cooperation, as set out in the Fifth Spanish Cooperation Master Plan (2018–2022), that incorporates gender equality as a priority and as a cross-cutting approach in all interventions.

Violence against women and girls is the most extreme manifestation of inequality and discrimination and is exacerbated in emergencies. In this sense, Spain is particularly committed to the fight against GBV in humanitarian contexts caused by conflict or natural disasters, through the funding of projects in the Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon or Colombia.

Jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), WFP and UN-Women in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda, the programme on “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” ([JP RWEE](#)) builds on each Agency’s comparative advantages and strengths in order to improve the status of women in rural areas. Rural women face multiple challenges (including risks of violence), which are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Ensuring their empowerment is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Objectives

The event will inform the Executive Board (EB) membership and WFP personnel about the importance provided by the Government of Spain to fight against gender-based violence both nationally and internationally. The presentation of a concrete case of partnership between the Spanish Cooperation Agency for International Development ([AECID](#)) and the NGO APS ([Alianza por la Solidaridad](#)) will illustrate how efforts to end gender-based violence were channelled through the assistance and support provided to Palestine, Colombia and Syrian refugees in Jordan.

The experience of the FAO-IFAD-WFP-UN Women Joint Programme RWEE will exemplify how activities supporting rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development leads to a decrease of violence in target communities.

The dialogue between the two presenters will explore how different approaches contribute to combat, prevent or address gender-based violence. The event will illustrate how support and protecting GBV survivors can be provided in different ways in emergencies and development contexts.

A tribute to gender-based violence survivors will be performed by Isabel Juárez, solo violist.

Outcomes

The objective of the event will serve to increase:

- ✓ Understanding that gender-based violence is a human right, health and protection issue, the various dimensions of gender-based violence and the realities faced by GBV survivors;
- ✓ Understanding among EB members of the links between GBV and women's empowerment;
- ✓ Visibility and recognition of GBV advocates' work;
- ✓ Showing solidarity with GBV survivors.

Agenda

With the presence of Mr David Beasley, Executive Director, the event will be hosted by the WFP Gender Officer and Spain and will bring together two international experts to discuss good practices in gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response; and reflect on the opportunities and challenges for moving forward in supporting GBV survivors.

- ✓ 13:15 – Lunch in the Peace Garden
- ✓ 13:45 – Victoria González-Bueno, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Spain, Welcome and opening remarks;
- ✓ 13:50 – Cristina Muñoz, Senior Representative of NGO APS: Supporting GBV victims, what can be done?
- ✓ 14:05 – Azzurra Chiarini, Global Coordinator JP RWEE: How holistic approaches to women's empowerment can contribute to combatting GBV;
- ✓ 14:12 – Moderated discussion by Alejandro Lopez-Chicheri, Chief Communications, Advocacy and Marketing and questions and answers;
- ✓ 14:35 – Isabel Juárez, solo violist, tribute to gender-based violence survivors;
- ✓ 14:43 – Kawinzi Muiu, Director of the Gender Office, closing remarks.

