



Improving diets and nutrition in Niger and Mali

Side event on the margins of the second regular session of the Executive Board

Wednesday, 20 November 2019, 08:30 – 09:45

Meeting Room, WFP Headquarters

Breakfast will be served in the Aula Delegatis from 8:30 to 8:45

The World Food Programme (WFP) Nutrition Division invites you to a side event showcasing our work to improve diets and nutrition through multisectoral approaches in Niger and Mali. The Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) assessment¹ is in high demand across WFP and among partners as it provides insights into how local food systems and different sectors can improve their contribution to nutrition, including for specific vulnerable groups. The tool analyses nutrient gaps and diet cost with the aim of informing the design of programmes and policies. The side event offers a forum to discuss how the Zero Hunger review process and other multi-stakeholder dialogues at different levels, including FNG, can contribute to improving nutrition in Niger and Mali.

The event will be moderated by the Director of Nutrition, Dr Saskia de Pee.

Context

Across the Sahel, the burden of acute and chronic malnutrition is persistent. Addressing it requires specific analysis to reliably identify barriers to adequate nutrition and formulate context-specific multisectoral policies and programmes.

In the Niger and Mali Country Strategic Plans (CSPs), WFP focuses on promoting healthy diets that meet nutrient needs through ensuring availability, physical access, affordability of and demand for nutritious food. Recognizing that healthy diets are dependent on enabling food systems, WFP aims to work with governments, local authorities, communities, the private sector and other partners on issues of availability and access to nutritious foods, including fortified foods, through a systems approach. The design of this way of working and identifying where to focus specifically is informed by the FNG assessments.

Objectives

WFP reaffirms the organization's commitment to support the Governments of Niger and Mali in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, particularly target 2.2 of ending all forms of malnutrition, as a primary channel to reach Zero Hunger and support progress on other SDGs related to nutrition.

The side event aims to present WFP's multisectoral approach for nutrition in both Niger and Mali, mainstreaming nutrition considerations into all aspects of WFP and partners' work including resilience-

¹ FNG: is a situation assessment for multi-sectoral decision-making on the prevention of malnutrition. For more information on the concept and the method of the FNG analysis, please see link here: <https://executiveboard.wfp.org/meeting/517>

building, agricultural production, processing and fortification, supply chains, and retail and consumption.

Agenda

Panellists will discuss three main agenda points:

1. Present the Niger and Mali CSP formulation process that led to the definition of a multisectoral approach for nutrition, including the steps each country has taken to prepare for the CSP implementation in 2020.
2. Provide an overview of the FNG situation analysis and how it informs WFP's strategy and the upcoming implementation of Niger and Mali CSPs.

Introduction: Ms Valerie Guarnieri, AED (5 min)

Moderator: Dr Saskia de Pee, Senior Technical Advisor, WFP Nutrition Division and FNG Team lead

Interventions from panellists:

- Mr Sory Ouane, WFP Niger Country Director (5 min)
- His Excellency Mr Ali Bety, Haut Commissaire de l'Initiative i3N, Government of Niger (5 min)
- Ms Silvia Caruso, WFP Mali Country Director (5 min)
- His Excellency Mr Moulaye Ahmed Boubacar, Ministre de l'Agriculture, Government of Mali (5 min)

Q&As from participants (15 min)

Closing remarks: Mr Christopher Nikoi, Regional Director for West Africa (5 min)