



Leveraging Satellite Imagery for Zero Hunger: Innovative Solutions to Needs-Assessments in Conflict-Affected Areas

Side event on the margins of the second regular session of the Executive Board
Thursday, 18 November 2021, 15:00-16:00 Rome Time.
Virtual event on Zoom

Context

West Africa is facing extraordinary challenges in achieving zero hunger. The region is battling multiple shocks, from recurring natural hazards and socioeconomic shocks to a rapidly deteriorating security context. Currently, over 31 million people are in need of food assistance in West Africa. Of these, millions live in conflict-affected areas, where WFP and its partners have limited access. These access restrictions not only make it difficult to assist the most vulnerable populations, but also make the gathering of reliable data on food security and livelihoods challenging. To overcome this challenge, the WFP Regional Bureau for Western Africa is expanding its use of satellite-based analysis, complementing and informing existing food security and nutrition monitoring systems, as well as operational targeting and planning. The presentation and panel discussion on 18 November 2021 will present innovative solutions that are being implemented in West Africa to provide credible evidence in conflict-affected and hard to reach areas, to inform national and regional food security and nutrition monitoring systems, as well as operational planning.

Objectives

The side event will:

- Introduce Executive Board members and partners to an innovative approach developed by WFP to gather credible evidence on food security and livelihoods in hard-to-reach areas, and its applications for food security analysis and operational planning; and
- Through a facilitated Q&A and panel discussion, introduce participants to the different users of the tool, from WFP and governments and regional entities, to demonstrate the criticality of partnerships in innovation and technology solutions to inform humanitarian action.

Agenda

The event will start with opening remarks by Mr Chris Nikoi, WFP Regional Director for Western Africa, and Ms Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department, who will introduce participants to WFP's vision on digitalization and technological innovation to inform food security analysis and operational planning. This will be followed by a short video which will introduce the solutions developed by the WFP Regional Bureau for Western Africa, and a presentation of the methodology and approach. Finally, through a moderated panel discussion including key users and partners, the event will explore the practical applications of satellite-based tools in West Africa. A Q&A session at the end of the event will allow participants to further explore specific questions.

Moderator: Mr Chris Nikoi, Regional Director for Western Africa, WFP.

1. Opening

- **Mr Chris Nikoi**, Regional Director for Western Africa, WFP.

2. WFP's digital transformation journey and vision

- **Ms Valerie Guarnieri**, Assistant Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department.

3. Video

- **Mr Ollo Sib**, Senior regional RAM advisor, Regional Bureau for Western Africa, WFP, **a 5-minute video introducing the satellite imagery analysis tool which will cover:** *issues of lack of creditable information in conflict-affected areas, and how WFP's innovative and cost-effective satellite-based imagery tool provides a solution to address these issues without putting people's lives in danger.*

4. Presentation of the methodologies and approaches developed in the Regional Bureau for Western Africa

- **Ms Laure Boudinaud**, Geospatial Analyst, Regional Bureau for Western Africa, WFP.

5. Moderated panel discussion

- **End-user experiences and feedback**

- *Leveraging satellite applications for operational planning and targeting*

Ms Sally Haydock, Country Director, Mali Country Office, WFP.

- *Using innovative tools to complement traditional systems for food security and agricultural monitoring*

Mr Salifou Ouedraogo, Minister of Agriculture, Hydro-Agricultural Development and Mechanization, Burkina Faso.

- **Partners in satellite imagery analysis in West Africa**

- *The importance of innovation and technology in humanitarian action,*

Mr Benoit Collin, Programme Manager regional programmes and initiatives; West and Central Africa, ECHO.

- *How satellite analysis informs CILSS' regional food security and nutrition monitoring systems*

Mr Abdoulaye Mohamadou, Executive Secretary, CILSS.

6. Q&A Session (moderator)

7. Closing remarks

- **Mr Chris Nikoi**, Regional Director for Western Africa (*wider applicability of satellite imagery analysis*).
- **Mr Abdoulaye Mohamadou**, Executive Secretary, CILSS (*closing remarks*).