



## *Friends of WFP Nutrition Event*

# **Side Event on the Syrian Arab Republic: Notes from a Nutrition Mission in the Field**

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

Thursday, 18 November 2021, 08:30 – 09:30

Hybrid format event (online and in person from WFP headquarters Auditorium)<sup>1</sup>

### **Overview**

You are kindly invited to a side event on the Syrian Arab Republic taking place, online and in-person, on Thursday, 18 November 2021, 08:30–09:30. The session, which will be moderated by **Mr Paul Kiernan**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the Rome-based agencies and Chair of the Friends of WFP Nutrition, will include opening remarks by **Ms Corinne Fleischer**, Director, Regional Bureau for the Middle East and Northern Africa, and will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A session. Panellists will include: **Mr Sean O'Brien**, Country Director, Syrian Arab Republic, **Ms Allison Oman Lawi**, Deputy Director, Nutrition Division, and **H.E. Mr Morten von Hanno Aasland**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the Rome-based agencies. **Mr David Beasley**, Executive Director, will provide closing remarks.

### **Context**

The Syrian Arab Republic has faced a prolonged crisis since 2011 which has caused severe damage to the country's economic and social fabric. In 2020, the economic collapse, and the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, further exposed the Syrian people to food insecurity and eroded their livelihoods. As a result, severe humanitarian needs persist across the country and a record number of Syrians, 12.4 million, or 60 percent of the population, are now food-insecure and do not know where their next meal will come from. Consequently, the nutrition situation in the country is concerning and families increasingly require support to meet their basic needs and rebuild their lives.

Building off the Friends of WFP Nutrition 2021 '*Prospect for Peace Series*', and in consideration of the extraordinary challenges currently being faced by the Syrian population, in October 2021, Ireland, in its capacity as Chair of the Friends of WFP Nutrition group, led a nutrition mission to the Syrian Arab Republic. The mission was joined by Norway, as well as by the WFP Nutrition Division, and aimed at providing Member States with a hands-on experience of the current situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, with a focus on the food security and nutrition needs, as well as a thorough understanding of the WFP response and the need for continued and increasing support.

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<sup>1</sup> Those who will be already in WFP headquarters for the Board session on the day of the event will be able to attend the event in person from the Auditorium. All other participants will join the event virtually; connection details will be shared through the Chair of the Friends of WFP Nutrition as well as through the WFP Executive Board Secretariat.



## **Objectives**

This session will offer a unique opportunity for WFP Member States to learn more about the current situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including an understanding of the nutrition situation, needs and challenges. The session will also aim to discuss future challenges and needs.

More specifically, the session will aim to:

- Debrief WFP Executive Board Member States on the Ireland and Norway recent mission to the Syrian Arab Republic.
- Familiarize WFP Executive Board Member States with the increasingly complex socioeconomic and food security and nutrition situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.
- Reflect on the vital importance of WFP food assistance and nutrition programmes in the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as on the key role of prevention.

## **Agenda**

### **1. Welcome**

- **Mr Paul Kiernan**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland, and Chair of the Friends of WFP Nutrition.

### **2. Opening remarks**

- **Ms Corinne Fleischer**, Director, Regional Bureau for the Middle East and Northern Africa, WFP.

### **3. Panel discussion** (*moderated by Mr Paul Kiernan*)

- **Mr Sean O'Brien**, Country Director, Syrian Arab Republic, WFP.
- **Ms Allison Oman Lawi**, Deputy Director, Nutrition Division, WFP.
- **H.E. Mr Morten von Hanno Aasland**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway.

### **4. Q&A session and remarks from the floor** (*moderated by Mr Paul Kiernan*)

### **5. Closing remarks**

- **Mr Amir Abdulla**, Deputy Executive Director, WFP.