

PARTNERING TO TURN THE TIDE AGAINST HUNGER

**Highlights and key takeaways
from the Annual Partnership Consultation 2022**





Dear Colleagues,

It was such a pleasure to welcome some of you back to Rome after the disruptions caused by COVID. At the same time, COVID brought us a benefit as we got up to speed on holding APC remotely. APC 2022 was the fusion of in person and online – the best possible combination.

The food and nutrition situation is so dire on so many fronts, we thought it important for our leaders to take a moment to reflect on what we can do better to confront the never-ending challenges. During the Strategic Roundtable on Day 1, I heard from so many of you and it gave me hope that there are many, critical initiatives we can jointly undertake. But now we must hit the ground running and follow up on those ideas whether they're quick wins or long-term recalibration.

Days 2 and 3 were packed full of ideas on the operational front – concrete examples of how we are already working together as well as ideas on what more we can do. It was such a pleasure to hear from so many of you, especially from our local partners as we continue to work together for a more localized humanitarian response.

As I read through the report of the sessions, one thing is coming across loud and clear. We cannot simply sit back and wait for the next APC. We have serious work to do in ensuring that those we serve have the help and support they need no matter what crisis they are facing.

I know that you are as anxious as we are to continue our collaboration and I thank you for being WFP partners.

Valerie Guarnieri, Deputy Executive Director, WFP

Tuesday 25 October. Session 1

Strategic Roundtable



Robert Turner
Chief of Staff and
Chief Operating
Officer, WFP



Jean-François Riffaud
CEO, Action Contre la
Faim International -
ACF



Nimo Hassan
Director, Somalia
NGO Consortium



Mathias Mogge
Secretary General,
Welthungerhilfe
(WHH)



Stephen Omollo
Chief Executive Officer,
Plan International

The strategic roundtable triggered a vibrant discussion around the unprecedented challenges the humanitarian sector is currently facing and the urgent need for common solutions and a coordinated response.

One bold message was underlined by all speakers: the worst is yet to come, and we must work together to pass through the storm and help millions in need.

Together, we must question some aspects of our ways of working. We need to succeed in breaking the hunger cycle in countries with relatively low malnutrition rates and stable political institutions, if we want to hope to be ready for the gigantic task the world of today is facing us with.

A shift in our programmatic approach must start with empowering local partners, involving them thoroughly during all stages of project planning and implementation.

Now more than ever, we should recognize that "prevention is better than the cure". Scaling up investments in early warning and anticipatory actions programmes is a fundamental condition for the success of our humanitarian response.

Above all, we will not succeed if we don't protect our humanitarian space. Building on the success of the Famine Prevention and Mitigation Compact, we need to level-up our coordinated advocacy efforts to make politicians and decision makers champion International Humanitarian Law. We need the world to acknowledge that, today more than ever, helping the furthest behind is everybody's responsibility.

Highlights from the speakers' corner

"2023 is going to be worst than 2022. What has been a food inflation problem will likely become a food availability problem." **Robert Turner, Chief Of Staff and Chief Operating Officer, WFP**

"It's time for a wake up call to the political sector to say that the fight against hunger does not belong only to the humanitarian actors anymore." **Jean Francois Riffaud, CEO Action Contre La Faim**

"Local partners deliver quickly and effectively in hard to reach areas. They have a long term presence and are first responders, therefore they can be used strategically to raise funds for underfunded operations."
Nimo Hassan, Director, Somalia NGO Consortium

"Today, we have the means to make funding available earlier but only 1 to 2% of it goes to anticipatory action operations. We need to change our attitudes and change how we work." **Mathias Mogge, Secretary General, Welthungerhilfe**

"The Famine Prevention Compact is a commitment for all of us. We must act now to address the critical funding gaps and scale up anticipatory actions that are required." **Stephen Omollo, CEO, PLAN International**

Wednesday 26 October. Session 2

School Meals Coalition: advocating together for change



Justin Byworth
Global Humanitarian
Director, World Vision
International



Valerie Guarnieri
Deputy Executive
Director, WFP



Maria Jose Rojas
Deputy Director of
School-Based
Programmes, WFP



Nick Daniels
Head of Policy and
Partnerships, Food
for Education



Ángela Anzola de Toro
CEO, Plan
International
Colombia

The session witnessed the soft launch of the School Meals Coalition's new Communications and Partner Outreach Initiative.

The panelists explained that the initiative will coordinate and inform the planning of advocacy campaigns both with a global and a local outreach. It will do so by focusing on youth, trying to capture and amplify the voices of the new generations that could really help unleash the power of joint advocacy.

The discussion also touched upon the need for further investment in innovative solutions like the homegrown school feeding and school gardens, as excellent tools to empower local communities.

Country specific examples highlighted the benefits of involving "non-traditional" partners in the implementation of school meals programmes. For example, in several countries, a more direct collaboration with the private sector could help the programme expand its reach.

The official launch of the Communications and Partners Outreach initiative was announced for February 2023. The speakers launched a call to action to all partners who are not yet part of the coalition to join the group as it continues to grow and onboard representatives of civil society and Governments.

Highlights from the speakers' corner

"We want to see deeper market linkages with the private sector to really highlight the commercial and economic opportunities that come with greater school feeding." **Nick Daniels, Head of Policy and Partnership, Food for Education**

"Advocacy is underleveraged in our partnership. I think this initiative shows how we can use the advocacy power for the greater good." **Valerie Guarnieri, Deputy Executive Director, WFP**

"The outreach initiative will help partners understand how to support member states in achieving the Coalition's goals" **Maria Jose Rojas, Deputy Director of School-Based Programmes, WFP**

"We need to mainstream youth engagement and participation at the field programme level and run cross-generational initiatives as to better inform our programmes." **Ángela Anzola, CEO, Plan International Colombia**

Wednesday 26 October. Session 3

Preventing Sexual Exploitation & Abuse: everyone's responsibility



Natalia MacDonald
Senior Advisor on
Protection from
Sexual Exploitation
(PSEA), WFP



Christine Ash
Buechner
Head of PSEA and
Safeguarding,
Norwegian Refugee
Council



Wendy Cue
Senior Coordinator,
PSEA, United Nations
Office for the
Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs
(OCHA)



Ramy Sakr
Sustainable Development
Program coordinator,
Association For Forests,
Development and
Conservation - AFDC

The session provided an overview of the UN Implementing Partners PSEA capacity assessment tool as well as insights on its practical use.

During the engaging Q&A session that followed the presentation, several voices highlighted some of the most critical aspects concerning our joint work on PSEA and exchanged best practices and lessons learned.

Participants agreed on the crucial importance of involving local communities to provide them with training and tools so that they can understand and champion PSEA.

The group advocated for urgent, widespread investment to build PSEA capacity at the country level.

Another critical topic of discussion was around building trust on the PSEA protection mechanisms among survivors. Research, analysis, and risk assessments are fundamental to put in place the right measures and create the right environment to help SEA survivors speak up and be heard.

Highlights from the speakers' corner

"PSEA is an operational imperative. Sexual exploitation and abuse incidents can prevent our organization from reaching the communities we want to reach." **Wendy Cue, Senior Coordinator PSEA, OCHA**

"I will keep fighting. It's about being passionate about it and say: it has to stop! It affects all of us and we all have a role to play, no matter how big or small" **Christine Ash Buechner, Head of PSEA and Safeguarding, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**

"Your first thought should be not about covering the reputation of your organization, your first thought should be about the survivor." **Justin Byworth, Global Humanitarian Director, World Vision International**

"We should stop having zero tolerance for SEA. We should focus on zero tolerance on inaction against SEA." **Allan A. Calma, Global Humanitarian Coordinator, The Lutheran World Federation**

Wednesday 26 October. Session 4

Breaking down disability barriers: meaningful participation for all



David Kaatrud
Programme,
Humanitarian &
Development
Director, WFP



Angela Kohama
Disability Inclusion
Officer, WFP



Abayneh Gujo Desta
Executive Director,
Federation of
Ethiopian
Associations of
Persons with
Disabilities (FEAPD)



Tom Palmer
Senior Advisor,
CBM Global's
Inclusion Advisory
Group (IAG)



Patricia Evangeline
Norimarna
Strategy and Policy
Officer & Disability
Inclusion Focal Point, WFP
Indonesia



Risnawati Utami
Founder/Disability
Rights Adviser,
OHANA Indonesia

We all know that we can do more to ensure that disability-led organizations are systematically included as cooperating partners across our joint programmes. As underlined by the speakers, this session was a first important step in the right direction as it brought this crucial issue for the first time on the table of APC and engaged the audience in a lively debate on concrete ways ahead.

We need to find local solutions to address the barriers preventing partnerships with Disability-led organizations. Solutions need to be fit for purpose, to be used in a prompt and flexible manner to leverage the great expertise Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) have to offer as partners.

Alongside this, there is also a clear need to make sure that contracting mechanisms are accessible and that we enable the participation of OPDs. Part of this is ensuring the accessibility of the UNPP.

Finally, in any of these scenarios, the bottom line is sustained dialogue and mutual respect to co-create solutions that work for all parties and that are founded in trust.

Highlights from the speakers' corner

"Inclusion cannot happen if it isn't localized, inclusion should embrace diversity respecting the rights of everyone." **David Kaatrud, Humanitarian and Development Director, WFP**

"To do disability inclusion correctly, we must have partnership processes that allow us to work closely with persons with disabilities and their organizations, processes that are accessible and dignified, that value their time, enable meaningful participation and decision making, and compensate them accordingly for their expertise"
Angela Kohama, Disability Inclusion Officer, WFP

"Large organizations and institutions must fill the gap between nice political intentions and actual actions to build a more inclusive environment for people with disabilities" **Abayneh Gujo Desta, Executive Director, FEAPD**

"Educate yourselves on disability inclusion, develop relationships as an essential element of crisis preparedness. It's too late to do it once the crisis has struck.." **Tom Palmer, Senior Advisor, CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group**

"In countries like Ethiopia, malnutrition is one of the main causes of disability. If we do not work for successful inclusion, we will be stuck in a vicious circle." **Abayneh Gujo Desta, Executive Director, FEAPD**

Thursday 27 October. Session 5

Preparing for the future: Strengthening the FLA partnership



George Aelion
Research Consultant
NGO Partnership Unit,
WFP



Giammichele De Maio
Chief, NGO
Partnerships Unit,
WFP



Dr. Khadeeja Azhar
Director,
Shifa Foundation



Sarah Fuhrman
Director of
Humanitarian Policy,
InterAction



Jeremy Rempel
Head of Humanitarian
Finance, International
Council of Voluntary
Agencies - ICVA

The session provided an important opportunity at APC to discuss the day-to-day operational interaction between WFP and NGOs governed by WFP Field Level Agreement (FLA), following a study commissioned by WFP.

After presenting the results of a survey of FLA stakeholders, challenges and experiences in implementing the FLA-based partnership model were shared, participants exchanged views from varied operational contexts that were along similar lines which endorsed the needs for clearer guidance and increased communication as suggested by the study.

It was agreed to continue the discussion and consultative processes for streamlining the FLA management practices through multiple communication channels at HQ, RB and country levels.

Based on the preliminary findings of the survey, WFP will further disaggregate and analyze the data in search of common remedies.

For shorter-term solutions, WFP will organize an internal and external stakeholder consultation with the aim of developing clearer guidelines in the specific management areas identified in the study.

WFP and partners, under the leadership of InterAction and ICVA, will continue the FLA review discussion and ensure that all the NGO partners are kept abreast of progress.

Highlights from the speakers' corner

"In the field WFP has so many trusted operational relationships and it makes sense to make some of these contract longer. We will explore with our country offices the possibility to work on longer FLAs." **Giammichele De Maio, Chief, NGO Partnerships Unit, WFP**

"Good partnership is more than achieving good results or having a lack of issues. The process of how we work together is equally important to what we are achieving." **Jeremy Rempel, Head of Humanitarian Finance, ICVA**

"I would like to endorse that WFP ensured the principles of inclusion and localization by engaging around 48 NGOs in strengthening the model of FLA partnerships." **Dr. Khadeeja Azhar, Director, Shifa Foundation**

Thursday 27 October. Session 6

Local production and procurement to address malnutrition



Allison Oman Lawi
Deputy Director
Nutrition Division,
WFP



Maria Virginia
Siebenrok
Chief Food Safety
and Quality, WFP



Odile Caron
Food Safety and
Quality Assurance
Coordinator, MSF



Naveed Akbar
General Director, Benazir
Income Support
Programme, Pakistan
Ministry of Poverty
Alleviation & Social Safety,
Pakistan

The session highlighted the important work of the Inter Agency Working Group around harmonization and standardization of specialized nutritious products and their use in programmes.

As explained by representatives of WFP and MSF, the main objective of the Working Group is to make sure that humanitarian foods are formulated, produced and used according to international standards.

Participants agreed on the fact that standardization and specifications can sometimes be a challenge for local farmers who try to produce nutritious foods with local ingredients. They stressed the important role WFP and INGOs must play to support local production and help local suppliers overcome these challenges.

The panel further engaged in a discussion around the fundamental role specialized nutritious foods have in treating stunting and severe malnutrition. At the same time there is a growing focus on malnutrition prevention in operations where these should be replaced by food-based solutions.

Another important element raised by the panelist is the unquestionable financial benefit Governments can get from implementing effective malnutrition prevention and treatment programmes. In some countries, stunting impact for 16% of the GDP.

Highlights from the speakers' corner

"There is room in the prevention space to look at food-based solutions but when it comes to treatment of acute malnutrition, I think SNF should still play the leading role." **Allison Oman Lawi, Deputy Director, Nutrition Division WFP**

"Local suppliers have often limited resources, by harmonizing the buyers' demand we help small suppliers optimize their production" **Maria Virginia Siebenrok, Chief Food Safety and Quality, WFP**

"For this first time in history, one RTU product will be included in the Codex Alimentarius meaning countries can procure and manufacture this product in line with standards." **Odile Caron, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Coordinator, MSF**

"Thanks to WFP evidence-based programmes, the Government of Pakistan was able to identify the right intervention to address growing stunting rates." **Naveed Akbar, Director General, Benazir Income Support Programme, Pakistan**

Thursday 27 October. Session 7

Local women's organizations: key partners for an equitable and effective emergency response



Elizabeth Burges-Sims
Senior Gender
Advisor, WFP



Natalia Karbowska
Director of
Strategic
Development,
Ukrainian
Women's Fund



Lara Fossi
Chief of the Emergency
and Transitions Service
in the Policy &
Programme
Department, WFP



Isadora Quay
Global Gender in
Emergencies
Coordinator, CARE
International



Louise Holt
Director General
Social Development,
Global Affairs
Canada

The session reaffirmed that working with local women's and gender mandated organizations make emergency response efforts more equitable, inclusive, and therefore effective. This is an important pathway to advance the rights of women and men in all the diversities in times of crises. The session stressed the importance of the Rapid Gender Analysis as a way of understanding the different needs of women, men, boys and girls in an emergency context.

The localization agenda, supported by donors like Canada, recognizes that women, alongside women's and gender mandated organizations are already playing an essential role in mitigating and managing the impacts of crises on the ground. We need to work together to shift the power of decision-making and leadership to them.

During the session, WFP committed to collaborate with all partners to ensure better engagement with organizations on the ground. Together we can benefit from knowledge and expertise of local organizations, support their access to decision-making spaces and design responses that bring about sustainable solutions to the diversity of people with whom we work.

Highlights from the speakers' corner

"You can have perfect policies on paper but if they are not localized, then they will not be really effective."
Natalia Karbowska, Director of Strategic Development, Ukrainian Women's Fund

"Ask women what they want, what they need, and then make sure they have the resources to put those actions into practice, that is what meaningful participation of women truly looks like." **Isadora Quay, Global Gender in Emergencies Coordinator, WFP**

"Our commitment is to put women and girls and all the diversities at the core of our efforts to achieve the peace and prosperity that we all want to see happening on the ground." **Louise Holt, Director General Social Development Global Affairs Canada**



Watch the recordings of the Annual Partnership Consultation 2022:

- [Day one](#)
- [Day two](#)
- [Day three](#)

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turn the tide
against hunger

Annual Partnership Consultation
25-27 October 2022



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