



WFP Newsletter on Rome-Based Agencies Collaboration



From Rome to New York and beyond, RBAs join forces in working on the new sustainable development agenda

The year 2015 is marked by mutually reinforcing Conferences and Summits in Sendai (disaster risk reduction), Addis Ababa (financing for development), New York (post-2015 development agenda), Paris (climate change), Istanbul (humanitarian issues) and Quito (urbanization) that will define the next global development agenda. The voyage has begun, with the conference in Sendai in March 2015. The next milestone will be the Third Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015. Early RBA collaboration resulted in a [joint think piece](#) highlighting what a financial framework on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture could look like. The RBAs hosted a side-event in New York in April on the margins of the intergovernmental drafting session of the Addis outcome document. A joint side event on the topic ["Achieving Zero Hunger: The Critical Role of Investments in Social Protection and Agriculture"](#)



Panellists at the RBA side event
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will also be held during the Conference in Addis in July. Following that will be the Special Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in September 2015. The RBA support to this process has been inspired by the vision of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to put the world on the path for sustainable development, and improving food security and nutrition is an important component. This is not a task that any one person or organization can do alone. Therefore the need for collaboration is greater than ever and the RBA partnership is absolutely essential. WFP is committed to this partnership.
Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director

Empower Women, Empower Humanity: Picture It

On 6 March 2015, the RBAs celebrated International Women's Day at a joint ceremony hosted by IFAD focusing on action to empower rural women to achieve food and nutrition security. The theme – Empower Women, Empower Humanity: Picture It – called for renewed commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action 20 years after its adoption.

Following the opening address by IFAD President Kanayo F. Nwanze and a statement from Marcela Villareal of FAO, a panel discussion considered innovative RBA interventions that have empowered women. Britta Schumacher from WFP explained the need to involve women and men to improve nutrition, and Andrea Sanchez Enciso of FAO described the work of the FAO Dimitra clubs in the Joint Programme for Rural Women's Economic Empowerment implemented jointly by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP. Antonio Rota from IFAD explained how small livestock make a difference in rural women's lives, and Mina Ramaroson of the International Land Coalition spoke about women's land rights.

The WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin closed the event, noting: *"We serve the same population... but we will not win the war until women have been properly acknowledged."*

To watch a short film about REACH in Bangladesh, click here:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY2jdt_TESM&feature=youtu.be



WFP Executive Director during International Women's day Event
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Enhanced FAO-WFP Partnership in Latin America

The FAO and WFP Regional Directors met twice in 2014 to confirm the agencies' commitment to maximizing synergies with a view to enhanced support for governments in the region. In 2014 WFP joined the Latin America Without Hunger initiative led by FAO and supported by the governments of Brazil and Spain, and participated in the FAO regional conference in Chile.

At sub-regional level, the coordination has been enhanced through the establishment of working groups on school feeding, Purchase for Progress, food security information and disaster risk management. Staff from the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central America and the WFP Regional Bureau now meet regularly in Panama to share information and discuss ways to support country-level partnerships. During the 2014 drought in Central America, a joint WFP-FAO declaration was issued for the first time. The FAO Sub-regional Coordinator and the WFP Regional Director also sent a message to FAO and WFP Country Directors in the drought-affected Central American countries, highlighting actions and initiatives that could be taken jointly in response to the drought.



WFP Regional Director Miguel Barreto visit a Health Centre in Croix-de-Bouquets in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. ©WFP/Grace

The Mesoamerica without Hunger Initiative, led by the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation, proposes cooperation activities and joint work with the governments of Mesoamerica. It represents a new and valuable opportunity for WFP to assist key actors and decision-makers in strengthening national and community capacities, as well as to contribute to the common agenda of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

Miguel Barreto, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean

At country level, there are several examples of good cooperation between the two agencies. In Honduras, WFP is supporting the government's school feeding programme for 1.2 million children and is partnering with FAO to enhance the programmes links with smallholder farmers through Purchase for Progress and the FAO Agrocadenas project. Under the 2015 trust fund agreement, WFP also hosted a working group with FAO and other partners to discuss diversified diets for school feeding based on locally produced vegetables and other important aspects of the programme. WFP and FAO are both supporting the Government in Honduras in strengthening the current programme to better integrate nutrition and local food habits considerations, playing an advisory role in national forum and working groups.



Pasqualina Di Sirio during a field visit. ©WFP/Hetze Tosta

The experiences gained by FAO and WFP in supporting and linking family agriculture production to the school feeding through local procurement is an essential element of the new school feeding programme in Honduras. It aims to expand a decentralized procurement approach for most of the products, but mainly for vegetables and eggs.

Pasqualina Di Sirio, WFP Country Director in Honduras

New Innovative RBA Resilience Project in Kenya

A new innovative large-scale RBA resilience programme began in Kenya in 2015. The Kenya Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Programme is a partnership between the Kenyan Government, the European Union and the RBAs jointly supporting vulnerable households in the shift from food insecurity to resilience and transformed livelihoods.

Under the project, 65,000 WFP beneficiary households will constitute the foundation of IFAD and FAO support to 100,000 farm households. Through Cash-for-Assets, WFP will target those farmers who are the most resource-poor and, with IFAD and FAO support, bring them to a level of subsistence and surplus at which the other two agencies can more substantially intervene.

The programme clearly aligns each agency's contribution to its comparative advantage and creates strong complementarity. WFP will provide support to food insecure farmers to graduate to subsistence farming and position themselves for market-oriented production providing incentives that build productive assets, develop agricultural production skills and diversify food and income sources. IFAD will provide substantial support to farmers who have reached household subsistence levels to graduate to market-oriented farming for value chains with market potential and support investments for improved natural resource management and resilience to climate change. FAO will support farmer groups to adopt good agricultural practices and conservation agriculture.

The approximately \$300 million collaboration can serve as an example of layering and integration of activities for scaled-up RBA joint programming and transformative impacts everywhere.

Randall Purcell, WFP Manager for Relief and Resilience Operations in Kenya

FAO & IFAD Governing Bodies

FAO-DG Emphasizes Nutrition and Climate Change as Key Priorities for his 2nd Term during the 39th FAO Conference

The 39th session of FAO Conference convened from 6 to 13 June, with record participation: 191 delegations, entailing over 1,700 delegates, 16 heads of states and government and 116 ministers.



Plenary 39th FAO Conference
©FAO/ Giulio Napolitano

During the Conference Jose' Graziano da Silva was re-elected as FAO Director-General from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2019 and agreement was reached on the Programme of work 2016-2017 and pertaining budget of USD 1,035.7 million.

In his closing statement, FAO Director-General emphasised nutrition and climate change as FAO's priority areas in the coming years. Sustainable production and management of natural resources; social protection; family farmer's access to markets; building resilience in rural population; and South-South Cooperation, were highlighted as key focus areas. He also informed that FAO will continue its de-centralisation process.

The Conference, being the sovereign body of the organisation, has the mandate to determine the policy, approve the budget and to make recommendations to Member Nations and Associate Members concerning questions relating to food and agriculture, for revision and implementation at national level.

FAO and WFP Recognized Country Achievements in Fighting Hunger

On 7 June 2015, FAO and WFP co-hosted a special event – *Completing the MDG round: recognizing achievements in the fight against hunger* – to acknowledge countries that achieved Millennium Development Goal 1 (MDG1) and the more ambitious 1996 World Food Summit (WFS) Goal by the 2015 deadline.

FAO and WFP Human Resources Directors Sign Agreement on Social Security

On 24 November 2014 Prerana Issar and Monika Altmair, Directors of the WFP and FAO Human Resources departments, signed an agreement on social security services, including medical insurance, life insurance, the pension fund, the compensation plan and services, that FAO provides to WFP International, HQ General Service staff and locally-recruited field staff, who were transferred to FAO framework effective 01 July 2014.



Signing of the Agreement. ©WFP

The 38th IFAD Governing Council Calls for Additional Investment in Rural Transformation

The 38th Session of the Governing Council of IFAD convened on 16 and 17 February 2015, with ministerial-level representation from 22 countries. The overall message was that investments in rural areas need to be accelerated to achieve sustainable development in the post-2015 context.

The Session featured: i) a Governors' round table on overcoming challenges to rural transformation in alignment with the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals; ii) panel discussions on issues affecting IFAD's work, including innovations in financial inclusion and rural women's empowerment; and iii) an inaugural lecture entitled "The Future of Aid" by the Executive Director of Oxfam International. The meeting was addressed by the President of Ghana, the King of Tonga and the Italian Minister for the Economy and Finance.



Front row from left: IFAD President Kanayo F. Nwanze, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana and His Majesty Tupou VI, King of Tonga.
©IFAD/Flavio Ianniello

In his opening statement, IFAD President Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze outlined the work of the RBAs in ensuring that food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture remain priorities in the post-2015 development era. He noted that IFAD's 10th Replenishment Consultation in December 2014 had endorsed a financing framework of USD 3.6 billion to support a USD 3.0 billion Programme of Loans and Grants, and drew attention to work on building new partnerships and making IFAD more country-focused.

IFAD's efforts to strengthen its country presence offer us great opportunity to enhance partnerships at the field level. We have intensified our discussions with IFAD on ways to align our different approaches in a number of focus countries.

Jim Harvey, Chief of Staff

FAO & IFAD Recent Policy and Strategic Documents

FAO Country Programming Frameworks for:
[Kenya](#) (2014–2017)
[Kyrgyz Republic](#) (2015–2017)
[Uganda](#) (2015–2019)

IFAD Country Strategic Opportunities Paper (COSOP) for:
[Sri Lanka](#) and [El Salvador](#)
IFAD [Policy for Grant Financing](#) + [Add.1](#)

WFP Engages with FAO/CFS in Organizing Workshop on FS&N in the Near East Region for the First Time

On 28-29 April, WFP's Regional Bureau in Cairo joined FAO and the CFS in convening the 4th Regional "Multi-stakeholder Workshop for Food and Nutrition Security in the Near East". The objective of this initiative was to strengthen regional and global linkages around food security and nutrition (FSN) policies, and to facilitate the strengthening of multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks.

This is the first time that WFP engages as one of three key organizers of this event at the regional level. In his opening statement Carlo Scaramella, WFP's Deputy Regional Director in Cairo, offered an overview of WFP's current efforts to both providing life-saving humanitarian assistance in support to millions of displaced and conflict affected people and communities in the region, as well as, addressing food and nutrition security in the longer-term. During the CFS event WFP engaged in three key panel discussions, focusing on: 1) The role of social protection in reducing vulnerability and building resilience; 2) Food and nutrition security in Emergencies and Protracted Crisis; and 3) Multisectoral interventions to address malnutrition.

The workshop gathered representatives from the 20 countries in the Near East and North Africa Region, as well as representatives from UN agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, international financial institutions, regional institutions and agricultural research institutions. Similar workshops were held in Cairo 2011, in Khartoum 2012 and in Tunis 2013.



Panelists from the jointly organised WFP-FAO-CFS 4th Regional Workshop in MENA region

The CFS can play a key role in promoting much needed policy changes and reforms among national and regional institutions in the MENA region, and we look forward to continuing our engagement with CFS, its partners and FAO in the coming years. The objective is to foster change in the food and nutrition security of millions of poor and vulnerable people.
Carlo Scaramella, WFP Deputy Regional Director in Cairo

The RBAs and Expo Milan 2015: Collaborating for a Sustainable Zero Hunger World



UN Expositions at EXPO 2015

The United Nations is bringing the vision of a world free from hunger to Expo Milano 2015, which will run from 1 May to 31 October 2015. The aim is to show that hunger can be ended in our lifetime and that increasing demand for food and new environmental challenges can be met, in line with the Zero Hunger Challenge. For the first time, the United Nations exhibits will be located in several areas of Expo Milano rather than in a single pavilion. Eighteen giant blue spoons identify the stages of the Zero Hunger itinerary, with infographics, videos, posters, maps and photo stories related to the Zero Hunger Challenge and women's empowerment and gender equality.

Upcoming RBA events

Date	Event
6-11 July	Codex Alimentarius
13-16 July	Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa
13 July	CFS joint bureau and advisory group meeting
17 July	CFS open-ended working group on MYPOW
7 September	CFS joint bureau and advisory group meeting
14-18 September	IFAD Executive Board
28-29 September	FAO Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters
12-17 October	42 nd session of the CFS
16 October	World Food Day

This newsletter is published by the Rome-based Agencies & CFS Division (PGR).

Please contact wfp.rba@wfp.org for more information on collaborations by the Rome-based agencies or consult the [RBA Collaboration Database](#) or [RBA intranet](#) page