



Permanent Mission of Sweden  
Geneva



World Food  
Programme



OXFAM  
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InterAction  
A United Voice For Global Change



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## **ECOSOC HAS 2023 Official Side Event Concept Note**

**Title of Side Event:** Protection Risks & Food Insecurity: Strengthening Community-led Solutions to Complex Crises

**Sponsors and Organizers:** Permanent Mission of Sweden in Geneva, CARE, Global Protection Cluster (GPC), InterAction, International Rescue Committee (IRC), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Oxfam

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, 21 June, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am Central European Time

This is one of the hybrid side events to be convened on the margins of the 2023 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), which builds on this year's HAS theme: *"Strengthening humanitarian assistance at a time of unprecedented global humanitarian needs: driving transformation and solutions to address the urgent challenges of rising food insecurity and the risk of famine, protection risks and climate change."*

### **Registration:**

For in-person attendance, participants who are not in possession of a valid UN grounds pass issued by UNOG will need to obtain a participant pass through the Indico system (<https://indico.un.org/event/1001158/>) by Wednesday 14 June.

For online participation, please [register here](#). We will share connection details as soon as possible.

### **Background and objectives of event:**

For millions around the world, conflict perpetuates a deadly and persistent cycle of protection risks and food insecurity. Not only is the connection between hunger, protection, and conflict strong, evidence shows it is growing more widespread. The World Food Programme reports that

70% of people experiencing hunger live in areas affected by conflict<sup>1</sup> and a Global Protection Cluster (GPC) analysis finds that in food insecurity contexts (IPC3 or above), there are now more people in need of protection than last year<sup>2</sup>. Despite this widespread connection, humanitarian approaches to addressing these mutually reinforcing needs are often siloed and more systematic approaches to analyze and act on food insecurity and protection risks through a multisectoral lens are sorely needed.

The identification of protection risks and their connections to food insecurity is fundamental to effectively reducing and addressing such needs in crisis contexts. Utilizing participatory approaches that integrate the perspectives and priorities of communities and local actors is a critical starting point with profound and proven impacts on how humanitarians understand protection risks and food insecurity and support the rights of people affected by crises.

In addition to dissecting the linkages between food insecurity and protection, participatory approaches help reveal a diversity of experiences and the need for tailored solutions. The risks and challenges that people face can be highly diversified depending on geography, conflict dynamics, and identity factors. For example, among people affected by conflict-induced hunger and protection risks, those who are marginalized due to gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, or other characteristics often bear the brunt of the impacts, yet they have the fewest positive coping strategies to rely on for assistance. In this event, diverse speakers will draw attention to the importance of community-led approaches highlighting challenges, practical solutions and best practices from specific contexts.

#### **Discussion points or guiding questions:**

- How do protection and food insecurity reinforce one another in different settings? By understanding the interlinkages between protection risks and food security, what does that mean for humanitarian programming aimed at achieving protection and food security outcomes? While there are differences in how people experience food insecurity and protection risks, are there common factors? What should the humanitarians be doing differently in programming to better address this intersectionality?
- How does seeing protection risks and food insecurity as interconnected change or challenge current humanitarian responses and help advance outcome-oriented actions? What needs to change within the humanitarian system and processes to better support these types of approaches?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wfp.org/global-hunger-crisis>

<sup>2</sup> Global Protection Cluster PIN/IPC analysis, May 2023

- What are the entry points to bring actors from across the peace building, development, and humanitarian nexus together on protection and conflict-induced hunger?
- How does working with communities on research differ from performing research on communities? Do participatory research methods change our understanding of risks and opportunities to act on protection and hunger? How can we better support communities in their own actions to reduce protection risks in food crises?

**Key concrete action points and recommendations/takeaway messages:**

- Articulate potential approaches and bring together tools to jointly analyze food insecurity and protection risks. This can include a specific focus on predictive analysis and anticipatory actions to reduce protection risks and resulting needs particularly for vulnerable population groups.
- Incorporate existing protection risks tools, guidance and methods into other sectors of humanitarian action, needs identification, and response in order to develop multi-stakeholder action plans.
- Adopt participatory approaches and support communities' own initiatives and responses to protection risks in food crises as an integral part of humanitarian action.
- Integrate protection risks into Member States' strategy and programming to inform policy, funding and actions with complementarity between measures to address acute needs and strategies to address root causes of conflict.

**Chair and moderator:**

- Samuel Cheung, Global Protection Cluster Coordinator

**Panel composition:**

- Welcome and Introduction, Mr. Samuel Cheung, Global Protection Cluster (GPC) Coordinator and Moderator for the event
- Opening Remarks:
  - Mrs. Sara Brodd, Senior Policy Specialist Protection, The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
  - Mrs. Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director for Programme and Policy Development, World Food Programme (WFP)
- Panel Discussion: Actions and Good Practices from the Field

- Mr. Rein Paulsen, Director of the Office of Emergencies and Resilience, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Mr. Kevin Muriithi, Senior Protection Coordinator, International Rescue Committee Afghanistan (IRC)
- Mrs. Aisha Mounkaila, Founder & Chair, NGO LARASSU, Niger
- Mrs. Saba Gebremedhin, Executive Directress, Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations
- Local Civil Society Speaker, Central African Republic
- Interventions from the floor and reflections from participants
- Closing Remarks, Mr. Samuel Cheung, Global Protection Cluster Coordinator

**Background Material:**

- [Global Protection Update. September 2022](#)
- [GPC Guidance on Protection Risks](#)
- [Protection Analytical Framework](#)

*(Note: As the organizer of the HAS, OCHA will post your side event concept note on the HAS website to facilitate the participation of interested stakeholders in the side events.)*

**Contact(s):**

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