



Initiative for School Meals and Social Protection in the Middle East and North Africa

Side event on the margins of the First Regular Session of the Executive Board

Tuesday, 21 February 2017, 13:15 – 14:45

Auditorium, WFP Headquarters

A light lunch will be served in the Peace Garden right after the conclusion of the Executive Board morning session

You are kindly invited to the presentation of the regional Initiative for School Meals and Social Protection in the Middle East and North Africa.

The complex development and humanitarian challenges and the pressing needs for enhanced nutrition, education and social protection in the Middle East and North Africa region require innovative and more coordinated policy responses, both in emergencies and in more stable but potentially fragile situations.

The MENA Initiative for School Meals and Social Protection aims at contributing to achieve a better strategic and programmatic alignment of national, regional and international partners, in support of national programmes and reform efforts, in line with the 2030 Agenda and with a view to achieving Zero Hunger.

This initiative leverages national school meals programmes as a means to reach and support the most vulnerable children and communities to achieve better nutrition, health, and education, while also stimulating local markets and production, and strengthening national social protection systems and services.

Agenda:

Opening remarks by Ms. Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director

National perspectives on school meals programmes and initiatives as part of the national development and social protection agendas:

- H.E. Hatem Ben Salem, Director General of the Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies, **Tunisia**
- Ms. Nevine Elkabbagg, Deputy Minister of Social Solidarity of **Egypt**
- Mr. Fadi Yarak, Director General, Ministry of Education and Higher Education of **Lebanon**
- Representative from the Ministry of Education of **Jordan**
- Mr. Jakob Kern, WFP Country Director and Representative, **Syrian Arab Republic**

Remarks from Regional Partners:

- Mr. Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, **FAO** Regional Representative
- Mr. Muhannad Hadi, **WFP** Regional Director

Questions and answers

Concluding remarks