



Investing in rural people

EVENT

IFAD and WEF - Protecting food security during COVID-19

29 May 2020

19:00-20:00 CEST

On Friday, 29 May, the World Economic Forum (WEF) and IFAD will host a special event and online briefing on food security in times of COVID-19. The event will be led by the leadership from IFAD and the UN Goodwill Ambassadors for IFAD, Idris and Sabrina Dhowre Elba.

The event will take place at 13:00 New York Time/ 18:00 British Summer Time/ 19:00 Central European Summer Time this Friday, 29 May.

On Friday, view the event live on WEF's platform via this link:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/how-is-covid-19-affecting-food-security/> as well as on the IFAD event page here: <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/event/asset/41937178>

EVENT BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic could see more than a quarter of a billion people suffering from acute hunger by the end of the year, unless swift action is taken to ensure food supply chains keep running.

The arrival of the novel coronavirus has exacerbated what was already a huge global challenge. Before the pandemic, more than 820 million people were suffering from hunger, including 110 million who were living with acute food insecurity.

About 80 per cent of the world's poorest and most food insecure people live in remote rural areas, many working in small-scale agriculture.

Restrictions on movement and trade mean that they cannot access markets, threatening both their lives and their livelihoods.

Concern is highest for those in countries across Africa and the Middle East as the virus threatens the agricultural and informal trading networks they rely on for survival.

Panel:

- **Gilbert F. Hounbo**, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development
- **Sean de Cleene**, Head of Future of Food; Member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum
- **Sara Mbago-Bhunu**, Director of IFAD's East and Southern Africa Division

Joined by:

- **Idris Elba**, Actor, Humanitarian and IFAD Goodwill Ambassador
- **Sabrina Dhowre Elba**, Actress, Model and IFAD Goodwill Ambassador

Moderated by:

- **Adrian Monck**, Managing Director, World Economic Forum