

Concept Note

WFP technology and innovation demo booth

ECOSOC 2013 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION, Geneva 1-4, 10-12 and 15-17 July 2013

WFP participation

In keeping with the High Level Segment's theme, the information stand will showcase some of WFP's recent innovations in delivering food assistance, **focusing specifically on technological innovation that is highly visible and lends itself to live demonstrations onsite**. It is important that WFP's booth "draw people in", as an opportunity to stimulate interest and curiosity in WFP's work, especially among top-level government officials. Given the diverse range of countries attending, **WFP will use this occasion to communicate with an audience not usually present at our meetings with donors and recipient countries**, and present itself as an innovative and cutting edge organisation in delivering humanitarian aid and leveraging technological change.

1. *Joint presentation from WFP's emergency telecommunications specialists with emergency.lu.* Emergency.lu is an emergency telecommunications platform developed by the Luxembourg government in partnership with WFP and the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), as well as private sector partners, fellow UN agencies and the EU. At the core of the emergency.lu solution is an inflatable satellite antenna that forms a rapid response, highly deployable satellite communication system, which can help to bridge the communications gap in the first hours and days of a large-scale disaster. Since its inaugural launch in December 2011, emergency.lu has been deployed in South Sudan and Mali and has provided free internet connectivity and improved security to thousands of humanitarian workers in remote locations. **The Luxembourg government showcased emergency.lu at the ETC meeting in Rome in November, where it met with great interest**, including from high-level, non-technical participants. The idea would be to replicate the setup used at the time and **highlight emergency.lu as an innovative partnership which reflects how WFP does business today**.
2. *SCOpe / cash and vouchers / national safety nets.* **WFP's corporate IT solution for cash and voucher project implementation at-scale** (SCOpe – System for Cash Operations) is currently being piloted in four countries. It consists of two main parts: **Beneficiary and transfer management (SCOpeople)** and an electronic voucher solution (SCOpeLink). SCOpeople allows WFP and its partners to register beneficiaries offline, including photos and fingerprints, and to then plan complex interventions to deliver cash and/or voucher-based benefits to them. SCOpe is based on **an open architecture and open source technology and is designed to integrate with existing databases**. **SCOpe thus offers WFP a powerful tool for partnering with others, including the ability to support national safety nets** and provide the tool itself and consultancy around it at low cost. SCOpeLink will not be ready for a live presentation by July; however **SCOpeople is ready and would lend itself to demonstration at this type of event**. At the booth, **we could carry out "mock registrations" using SCOpe, where people can try out the picture and fingerprint functionality as well as the intervention planning interface**. **It would also be possible to show a customized Point of Sale solution designed specifically for SCOpeLink**, which is a smart-card based electronic voucher solution that works offline and uses biometric identification. While we could not show the Point of Sale at work, **we could show the Point of**

Sale device itself as well as samples of beneficiary smart cards and walk people through how this would work in practice. To showcase the breadth of WFP's experience in cash and vouchers and the innovative potential behind it, we could also present samples of the many different vouchers (paper and electronic) currently used in the field.

3. *GRASP - WFP's SMS-based data collection system for vulnerability analysis and monitoring.* **GRASP is a new field data collection tool developed by WFP's vulnerability analysis and mapping experts that uses Android mobile phones and tablet computers** to complete previously created forms. Data collection can take place offline, with data captured in the field then synchronized with central servers using a variety of means, including the possibility to break forms up into strings of basic text messages (using the Frontline SMS technology). This is a very powerful new tool that combines the latest in mobile technology with the most basic telecommunications infrastructure, which makes it usable in any number of contexts. **At the booth, we could show how one creates forms using a normal PC, what the Android interface looks like on a phone or tablet, and demonstrate live how a form is sent back to the server using standard SMS.**