



School Meals and the Global Agenda

The Coalition is pleased to share further detail about the three global milestone moments on its 2023 calendar.

In a high-level plenary session on July 24 as part of the **UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment** (July 24-26 in Rome), the Coalition will be featured as one of the significant achievements coming out of the Food Systems Summit two years ago through a dedicated session in the opening plenary. With representation at the Presidential and Ministerial level, Coalition leaders will showcase country progress and launch new, bold commitments related to domestic investment and policies to address food systems challenges such as on food fortification, new nutrition guidelines and standards, and local purchase targets. The session will help demonstrate what a food systems transformation process looks like in practice and demonstrate how partners can support governments in this process.

In addition, on behalf of the French government the Coalition can now share that its first **Global Ministerial Meeting will occur October 18-19** in Paris. The meeting will provide an opportunity for countries and stakeholders to express their collective commitment towards the Coalition's objectives and serve as a platform for building new collaborations between countries and other partners to drive progress going forward. The Coalition is also supporting several sub-regional meetings to prepare for the Ministerial, including June 26-27 in Rwanda, August 29-31 in Brazil and an additional session led by ECOWAS (dates TBD).

Finally, the Coalition is working closely with the Government of the UAE in its COP28 Presidency role to put school meals on the agenda at **COP28** (November 30-December 12 in Dubai). To lay the groundwork, the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition has been invited to develop an evidence-based white paper, providing actionable recommendations on developing more climate-friendly school meal programmes. More to come soon.



Country spotlights

The Coalition welcomes **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Somalia and Tajikistan** as the most recent countries to sign the Declaration of Commitment.

The Coalition also received the recent submission of **Mexico's** national commitment, which:

- Includes school feeding programmes as a priority in the national agenda.
- Promotes nutritious, sufficient and quality food, as well as integration of regional and local foods in the national school feeding programme.
- Supports provision of technical assistance and exchange of good practices on school feeding with other countries around the world.

The Coalition also welcomes the adoption by **Nigeria** of a National Home Grown School Feeding policy to help ensure the sustainability of its school feeding programme.



Event digest

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: On Monday June19, the **Research Consortium's Good Examples Community of Practice** will hold its Summer Meeting, an opportunity to reflect on progress to date in documenting examples of best practice in school meals programming and to provide guidance to countries seeking to develop a case study in future. The meeting is open to anyone interested in the documentation of school meals programmes globally and you can register [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: The plenary session on school meals at the **UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment**, which will include updates and new commitments from country leaders and partners of the Coalition, will occur on July 24 from 9:30-11:00 CST. See the full draft programme for the event [here](#).



Resources and publications

FAO recently released **two studies related to Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) in Ethiopia and Senegal** that contribute to growing the evidence on this topic:

- [Baseline assessment of home-grown school feeding in Ethiopia](#), which presents results of a study, carried out in 2019, of a HGSF programme implemented by the government that includes data about the potential impact of HGSF on both farm production and children's food security and education.

Three new country profiles have been published on the FAO-WFP **School Food Global Hub**: [Costa Rica](#), [Saint Kitts and Nevis](#) and the [United Kingdom](#). For information about the nutritional value of school meals in different countries, and how these incorporate food and nutrition content into their school systems, check out the full list of country profiles [here](#).

Developing guidelines and standards for school meals is not always simple or straightforward, and sometimes it is helpful to know how other countries handled specific decisions, for instance, in light of limited data around schoolchildren's needs. On the **School Food Global Hub's** [technical exchange section](#), you can now ask a technical question, and see it addressed by an expert or country professional.

The Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition has released a **school food case study on Canada**, describing the design and implementation and other aspects of the programme. Read the paper [here](#).

Prominent researchers on food systems Stephanie Walton, Corinna Hawkes and Jessica Fanzo have just published "**Searching for the essential: Exploring practitioners' views on actions for re-orienting food systems towards healthy diets**" where they consulted a diverse range of stakeholders, policy makers and practitioners to try to identify if there are any actions that are considered essential for re-orienting food systems towards healthy diets. They found a wide diversity of views across many of the proposed actions. However, a handful of actions emerged as more essential, particularly school feeding programmes. Find the paper [here](#).

The French version of the **State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022 Report** is now available [here](#).



Getting engaged

The Research Consortium's *Good Examples* Community of Practice is seeking a consultant to support with coordination and administration. Further details about the consultancy and the selection criteria can be found [here](#).

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to be on our regular mailing list, please contact us at global.smcsecretariat@wfp.org. If you would like to join the School Meals Coalition, you can signal your interest in signing the Declaration of Commitment (as a government) or Declaration of Support through contacting the same email address.

Yours sincerely,
School Meals Coalition Secretariat

