



School Meals and the Global Agenda

On The G7 Agriculture Ministers have recognized that “the provision of targeted school meals programmes amongst a range of other initiatives can make an important contribution to food security, nutrition and keeping children in school and learning,” as stated in the G7 Agriculture Ministers’ Communiqué. The communiqué also strongly recognizes that food systems transformation can be a springboard for climate action (see the full declaration [here](#)).

The latter point is pertinent to school programmes meals given their potential to serve as a policy lever for both food systems transformation and climate action, an idea the Coalition will be emphasizing going into the Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment in July and what is expected to be, as Sara Farley from The Rockefeller Foundation puts it in her [blog](#), the first “Food COP” during COP28 later this year.

Related to another aspect of the global agenda, the Transforming Education Summit led to a process of review of SDG4 indicators to better capture the priority areas of action coming out of the Summit, among them the wellbeing and nutrition of school children. After technical level discussions led by the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 Indicators approved a proposal by WFP to include an indicator related to school meals. In the next few months, discussions to define a reporting mechanism for this indicator will take place with the Data and Monitoring Initiative of the School Meals Coalition.



Country spotlights

To date, the Coalition has received a total of 19 commitments from the 79 governments that have signed the Declaration of Commitment.

The Coalition welcomes **São Tomé and Príncipe** as the most recent country to sign the Declaration of Commitment.

The Coalition also welcomes the recent submission of **Kenya’s** national commitment, which highlights the role that school meals can play as a concrete action that accelerates SDG implementation.

The commitment states: “At a time world leaders are pointing to the Sustainable Development Goals as a pathway toward building back better from the pandemic, school meals should be positioned as a centrally, cross-cutting intervention that will contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.” The Government of Kenya is a pioneer in committing to embedding green innovations in the implementation of its school meal programmes, linking such actions with the implementation of its Nationally Determined Contributions and carbon-offsetting efforts.

The nine commitments made by Kenya include:

- Work with multiple stakeholders to find sustainable and innovative funding sources for school meals programmes to achieve better outcomes for school children in Kenya and globally.
- Enhance the school meals programme initiatives working together with partners to expand the coverage from the current 1.9 million children to universal coverage by the year 2030.
- Develop a national policy on nutritious school meals by June 2023.
- Establish a national school meals coalition and hold an annual school meals stakeholder conference with the aim of strengthening national coordination of the programme.
- Strengthen efficiency and accountability of the national school meals programme by rolling out a digitalized school meals data and reporting module within the National Education Management Information System by December 2023.
- Participate in peer-peer activities with other countries on impactful, nutritious and sustainable school feeding programmes (study

visits, case studies, technical assistance).

- Strengthen market linkages by re-building national capacity of small holder farmers to supply nutritious meals to schools.
- Work with multiple stakeholders to introduce green technologies that provide clean energy solutions to support safe food preparation... supporting implementation of Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through carbon offset.
- Encourage school gardens through the re-established 4-k clubs for introduction of healthy diets and for the sustainability of the school meals programme.

As we move towards key global moments in 2023, including the SDG Summit, the Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment and COP28, the Coalition will spotlight bold national commitments by member states like Kenya. (At the request of partners, please note we are also working on making all national commitments publicly available).

The Coalition will also look to mobilize member states and partners to bring attention to the role of school meals as a force for progress and transformation in global conversations around food systems transformation, climate and SDG action.



Event digest

SAVE THE DATE: On May 31, the Research's Consortium's Nutrition Measurement Community of Practice will co-host a joint **webinar on Nutrition Measurement** with the African Nutrition Society to mobilize nutrition experts across the continent towards the establishment of an Africa-wide Nutrition Professionals Network.

SAVE THE DATE: On June 2, Professor Donald Bundy, Director of the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition, will give a talk, **"Social Shocks and School Meals: Sustaining child development through economic crises,"** at the Royal Society of Medicine's one-day conference on managing dietary inequalities during an economic crisis.

To register your interest in joining either of the two events above, please email SHNConsortium@lshtm.ac.uk.

SAVE THE DATE: Are you attending the **Women Deliver** conference in Kigali, Rwanda July 17-20? If so, join a concurrent session, **"Our Education, Our Rights: Girls in Crisis,"** hosted by the Global Partnership for Education, Plan International, Girls Opportunity Alliance, FAWE, Transform Education, and Rozaria Memorial Trust with the School Meals Coalition. More details will be shared soon.



Resources and publications

The Sustainable Financing Initiative of the Coalition recently published "[What Works: School Meals Programs](#)," at the request of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office through the initiative's partnership with the What Works Hub.

In a new report, learn how the **exchange of school feeding good practices found in Brazil** contributed to consolidation of the SDGs, particularly SDGs 1, 2 and 17. The report showcases examples of exchange among countries including Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Romania and Togo, and how South-South exchanges and collaborations involving the Centre have provided recent support for countries including São Tomé and Príncipe and Sierra Leone. The report also calls out the Coalition as a "unique global platform to show the Brazilian national programme to the world and facilitate peer learning." Find the report, issued by the Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil, [here](#).

The **State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022** executive summaries are now available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian (see [here](#) to download).



How to get engaged

The **International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd)** is working with the Coalition to produce a Toolkit on School Feeding for members of parliament to advocate for, increase the reach and improve the quality of school feeding programmes.

IPNEd is requesting support from Coalition stakeholders in the completion of two surveys to better understand the perception of school meals programmes:

1. Share this survey with parliamentarians ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)) and encourage them to complete it!
2. Complete this survey ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)) if you're from a non-government organization (you don't have to be working on school feeding).

A separate survey for government members of the School Meals Coalition will be sent to government focal points directly. The surveys will close on **Friday May 26**. If you have any queries, please contact info@ipned.org.

The Coalition is making plans for its **Global Ministerial Meeting** in October in Paris and would like to make sure all Coalition members and supporters are represented. If you have signed the Coalition's Declaration of Commitment or Declaration of Support and have not yet provided contact details for your Minister or Principal to be invited to attend the meeting, please fill out this [form](#).

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

