



Please join us in welcoming the Governments of Italy, Mongolia, Latvia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Surinam, Ukraine, and Belgium to the School Meals Coalition, in addition to the Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank. The Coalition now stands at 95 member governments and 112 partners at its two-year mark.

The School Meals Coalition will be at COP28

If at COP28 please join these two events: Kenya and the UAE will team up with other key stakeholders to shine an international spotlight on the impact of school meals on food systems transformation and climate change.

Date and Time: 8 December, 14:00-15:00 GST

Location: Al-Waha Stage, WCAS Theatre within the Blue Zone

A Session to discuss the White Paper: School meals and food systems: Rethinking the consequences for climate, environment, biodiversity, and food sovereignty will take place at the RewirEd Summit, a platform hosted by Dubai Cares.

Date and Time: 8 December, 16:15-17:00 GST

Location: Connect Conference Centre, the Green Zone, Expo City

To learn more about the Summit, please visit [here](#).



Highlights of the first Global School Meals Coalition Summit

The School Meals Coalition First Global Summit took place in Paris on 18-19 October, and it was a huge success.

The Summit brought together decision makers to discuss solutions to their most pressing challenges, creating an opportunity for member states and partners to showcase achievements, connect and tap into new development and financing tools. We welcomed nine new countries and partners. Below are the highlights of what was announced and launched. **Find the full Paris Statement in:** [\(EN/SP/FR/PT\)](#).

- Brazil joined France and Finland as co-chair of the Coalition and the three co-chairs issued commitments.

“Investing in food security and nutrition for the younger generations is an investment in development and in ending inequality,” Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

More information on Brazil’s exciting announcements is [here](#).

- **Representatives from the African Union, ECOWAS, and Latin American and Caribbean region** discussed development of a shared regional vision and action plan for improving the quality and scale of school meal programmes. The Coalition welcomed the establishment of the Regional School Meals Coalition Network in East Africa, as a platform for policy dialogue, peer learning and knowledge sharing, and the announcement of a school meals regional meeting of Asian countries in 2024. It also welcomed the ongoing work of the Sustainable School Feeding Network (RAES) in Latin America and the Caribbean, supported by Brazil and FAO.
- **Municipalities launched the “Cities Feeding the Future” Initiative:** [Read the full article here](#).
- **Partners announced new ways to support country scale up.** These include the Islamic Development Bank’s new “Human Capital Initiative”, the Global Partnership for Education’s Multiplier and School Health & Nutrition Technical Assistance Facility, Dubai Cares’ efforts in Senegal, the Rockefeller Foundation’s investments in food systems, debt swaps, and the European Union’s investments in scaling up integrated approaches and supporting girls’ school attendance in difficult contexts. The Sustainable Financing Initiative of the Coalition will make solutions for increased fiscal space and support for financing low-income countries’ programmes a priority for 2024.
- **More than 100 civil society organizations, led by Plan International and World Vision, issued a Joint NGO Call to Action on School Meals** for adequate funding, strong nutrition standards, and independent accountability.



Quotes of the month

“School meals is a big bet because if you are thinking about the well-being of humanity, you better be thinking about the future generations. We are living in such a polarized world, and we need to find points of unity. Children are the point of unity because everybody loves their children, let’s work with that as a point of unity to bring the world closer together.”

Mr. Roy Steiner, Vice President, Vice President, The Rockefeller Foundation

“Many countries have wonderful visions for their school meals expansion but unfortunately with no financing plans to back those visions. This is challenging because school meals touch upon so many parts of government, which makes it harder to really figure out how to cost and finance school meals. We need to get smart about presenting financing plans and costing plans to convince ministers of finance and the rest of government that school meals are an important investment.”

Ms. Liesbet Steer, Director, Sustainable Financing Initiative



Country spotlights



The three co-chairs of the School Meals Coalition, Ambassador Celine Jurgensen (far left) representing France, Ambassador Maria Laura da Rocha for Brazil, congratulates a representative of St Vincent and the Grenadines who joined the Coalition in Paris, Minister Ville Tavio, Finland, and a representative of Surinam, which also joined the Coalition during the Summit in Paris. *Photo: WFP/Rein Skullerud.*

Haiti embraces innovative financing to scale up school meals

Through a financing package with Haiti's National Fund for Education and in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Global Partnership for Education's Multiplier Fund, the Government of Haiti will expand its school meals coverage by 20 percent to reach 1.5 million children in pre and primary schools. At the School Meals Coalition First Global Summit in Paris, Haiti's Minister of Education Nesmy Manigat announced the new mechanism, which has since attracted funding from the USA's McGovern Dole Program and Qatar, saying "it's very innovative and a major advancement for developing countries." [Read the full article here.](#)

Children's Voices

"Hydroponic school gardening has changed our lives"

My name is Matimba Ngandu, I am in grade 7 at Gwembe Primary School in Zambia. At my school we are learning how to grow food in our school garden using the hydroponic farming technique under greenhouse conditions. This is important to ensure we have fresh vegetables throughout the year. We harvest the vegetables and supply our school kitchen, for the cooks to add to the food provided by the Government. [Read her full story here.](#)



Event digest

Mobilising political leadership for School Feeding

Over 80 Members of Parliament attended the 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Accra, Ghana where they demonstrated commitment to promote the expansion and improvement of school meal programs in their countries and at the global level. [Read the full article here.](#)

Ensuring healthy nutrition for children in the EU: The High Commission for combating child poverty held an event to define the role of school canteen policy at Palacio Miramar in San Sebastián, Spain. Representatives from the School Meals Coalition joined discussions aiming to lay the foundations for greater commitment by member states to guarantee all children the right to at least one healthy meal a day throughout the Union. Find details of the event [here.](#)



Upcoming Events and Initiatives

The Rockefeller Foundation in partnership with WFP and the Ministry of Education will host a Climate Smart School Meals Partners

Dialogue in Nairobi, Kenya on 22 November 2023. Stakeholders working in the school meals and climate sectors will exchange experiences and good practices to strengthen climate smart school meal programs.

‘How to write a winning grant application’ from the Early Career Researcher and Young Scientist Network: Are you an early career researcher in the field of school health and nutrition? If so, you can watch a replay of this recent webinar from the Research Consortium’s *Early Career Researcher & Young Scientist Network* and hear insights from across the Research Consortium on how to write a winning grant application. [Register now](#).

Save the date: Diet & Food Systems Community of Practice Winter Webinar – On 5 December, the Research Consortium’s *Diet & Food Systems* Community of Practice will hold a webinar to share progress so far and future plans for building the global evidence base on school meals and food systems transformation. More information will be shared by the Research Consortium soon.

FAO and WFP are looking for five school food advocates, young people aged 10 to 17 who are enthusiastic about nutritious school food and willing to call for children’s right to it. School Food Advocates will have their voice be heard during global events, record videos to share their experiences, and more. Is this you, or do you know anyone who would be interested? Applications can be submitted until 30th November. Find out more [at this page](#).



Talk to us

The White Paper: Unlocking opportunities of planet-friendly School Meals

As the world grapples with the worst hunger crisis in recent history, due in large part to rising food insecurity triggered by extreme climate-related weather events, the Research Consortium for school health and Nutrition has spent the past year looking into the potential impacts of planet-friendly approaches to school meal programmes on both human and planetary health. They have drafted an evidence-led White Paper titled “School Meals and Food Systems: Rethinking the consequences for climate, environment, biodiversity, and food sovereignty”. To learn more, read [here](#) the Q&A with the Research Consortium Director, Professor Don Bundy.



Resources and Publications

New profiles added to the School Food Global Hub: The country profiles of Tanzania and Zanzibar were added to the FAO-WFP School Food Global Hub. Existing profiles of other countries such as the Gambia, Suriname and Vanuatu are now up to date. Visit the [Hub](#) to find out more.

Statement to the Ministerial Meeting of the School Meals Coalition: This working paper by the Research Consortium reports new programmatic and policy insights in 2023 and recommends institutionalizing within existing national school meal programs a set of policies. Find the working paper [here](#).

We Would Like to Hear from You!

The Coalition is working on the next iteration of its website, schoolmealscoalition.org which will include new content from the field to harness the voices and exciting work being done by its members and partners. All partners are encouraged to contribute stories, videos and pictures highlighting their key activities and events. We would also like to hear what content you would like featured on the website. Please share your thoughts [here](#).

As the Coalition celebrates its second anniversary, all countries are encouraged to submit their initial commitments or to provide updates on previous commitments. The Coalition has issued updated [Commitment Guidelines](#) to support countries in this process. The secretariat is happy to be a resource as needed. Please send any inquiries to global.smcsecretariat@wfp.org. 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. Please use the same email address if you would like to join the School Meals Coalition.

Yours sincerely,
School Meals Coalition Secretariat

