

COMMITMENT DOCUMENT

School Meals Coalition

Nutrition, Health and Education for Every Child

Commitment Document for Suriname

The Government of Suriname expresses its strong support for school meal programmes as a policy lever to drive and strengthen human capital, social and economic growth and sustainable food systems.

We are convinced that this programme is a systemic solution that helps combat child hunger and poverty; supports child nutrition, learning, long-term well-being and health equity; strengthens food systems and local economies; and promotes gender equality by keeping girls in school.

We believe school meals programmes are about much more than food in school. They help to improve and diversify children's diets, teach children how to eat better and support national and local markets and food systems by using locally grown food where possible, improving opportunities for smallholder farmers and local catering businesses, many led by women.

At a time in which world leaders are having to tackle several crises as once, such as the education, the food and the climate crisis, school meals should be positioned as a central, cross-cutting intervention that will contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.

Suriname as a proud member of the School Meals Coalition announces the following commitments towards its goals:



	Categorie ¹	Goal	Deadline
1	Policy commitment	- Develop a National School Meals Policy by the end of 2024 to ensure that every child in the country has access to a nutritious meal at school by the start of the 2025-2026 school year. - From 2025, include school meals program in the national development plan and the ministerial annual plans. - From 2025, include school meals in the policy regarding food education in the schools.	Dec 2025
2	Financing commitment	Ensure that the 2025 budget includes a (national) budget for school meals that will gradually increase over the next five years to reach 100% by 2030 so that every child can be provided with a school meal.	
3	Institutional commitment	By the end of 2024, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture will take the lead in setting up a Multi-sectoral coordination unit for school nutrition to lead and implement the strategic and coordination issues for the national school nutrition program	Oct 2024
4	Program design & coverage Commitment	- Start a national school nutrition program at the beginning of the school year 2025-2026 that reaches 20% of schoolchildren. - Reach 20% of schoolchildren by the end of 2026 and reaches 100% of schoolchildren by the end of 2030 - Adopt national dietary guidelines/standards to achieve healthy school meal standards by mid-2025, with the inclusion of 25% fresh food in the menu. - Improve infrastructure at all schools to enable WASH facilities - Introduction of cluster school kitchens to provide surrounding schools with school meal by 2030	



5	Evidence & data generation commitment	Report biennially to the coalition with country data to be shown in coalition ministerial meetings and in the State of School Feeding Worldwide publication	
6	Advocacy & partnership commitment	The Minister of Finance & Planning / Education / Agriculture/ Social Affairs / Regional Development and Health (minimum of 2 ministers) with the relevant experts (minimum of 2 experts) will represent the country in coalition ministerial meetings and advocate for healthy nutritious meals in the region	

