



Welcome to a new School Meals Coalition partner: Fundesplai, a non-profit organization based in Barcelona, Spain. We look forward to learning from their efforts in non-formal education with a focus on supporting the provision of nutritious food in over 350 schools. Our [Coalition](#) now includes 97 members, 3 regional bodies and 129 partners.



Creating fiscal space for school meals: Towards Agenda 2063, SDGs & human capital development



Panelists from left to right: H.E. Prof. Mohamed Belhocine, Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology (ESTI), Africa Union Commission (AUC); Mr. Harun Yussuf, Chief Executive of the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK); Ms. Betty Kibaara, Director, Food Initiative, The Rockefeller Foundation, Africa Region Office; and Ms. Carmen Burbano de Lara, Director of the School Meals Coalition Secretariat and Director of the School Meals and Social Protection Service, World Food Programme. Credit: AfDB/Umuliza Njiru

At a side event during the African Development Bank's 2024 Annual Meetings in Nairobi, Kenya, high-level government officials, experts, and partners from the African Development Bank, African Union Commission, Global Partnership for Education, Government of Kenya, The Rockefeller Foundation and the World Food Programme discussed pathways to leverage financing to help governments sustain school meals programmes in the long run. Watch the recording [here](#).

“We need to invest in transforming education systems. A key part of this endeavour is to ensure that no child goes to school hungry. If a child goes to school with a full stomach, it enhances our children’s learning ability with good outcomes.”

H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Board Chair of the Global Partnership for Education

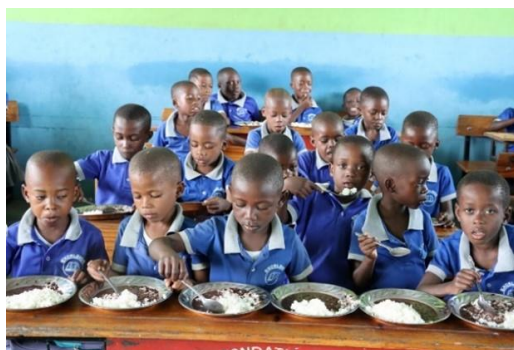
“When we talk about school meals financing, we reflect a collective commitment to ensuring no child is left behind, no child is hungry, and no child is denied the opportunity to reach their potential. But we have a structural deficit, a financial deficit, not directly linked to the political will of our governments. We still have many opportunities, especially in public-private partnerships to advance funding for school meals.”

H.E. Prof. Mohamed Belhocine, Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology (ESTI), Africa Union Commission (AUC)

SFI offers support to governments for sustainable school meals programme financing

The Sustainable Financing Initiative (SFI) for School Health and Nutrition, as part of the School Meals Coalition, is extending an [Offer of Support](#) to national governments aiming to develop sustainable financing strategies for their national school meals programmes. By partnering with SFI, governments can access expert guidance and resources to establish robust financial frameworks that secure the future of their school meals initiatives. [Learn more about SFI.](#)

Haiti > Farmers dig in heels to sustain school meals



Some of the smallholder farmers supplying vegetables in schools in Haiti work in their fields in Salmori village in Hinche Municipality, while students at Baptiste Salem Primary School enjoy their meals with food from local farmers. Credit: WFP/Haiti

The Haiti home-grown school meals programme has turned its attention to local smallholder farmers working around schools to become the primary source of food supplies to ease the delivery of ingredients amid security concerns. Working with partners, the Ministry of Education is strengthening the capacity of 170 farmer associations with a membership of 20,000 smallholder farmers to produce more food varieties. In April, Haiti signed a partnership agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank, Education Above All, and the Global Partnership for Education, to the tune of US\$ 44 million, of which US\$ 11.5 million will be allocated to school meals support, targeting 30,000 children over a three-year period. Read the full story [here](#).



Voices from the field

[Lebanon](#): Joseph interviews his peers at school about their favourite school snack.

[Canada](#): The impact of a national school meals programme on working families.

[Niger](#): Government taking steps to promote local diets in school meals.



Mark your calendar

9-12 December > The Global Child Nutrition Forum 2024

The Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) invites you to the [Global Child Nutrition Forum](#) happening in Osaka, Japan. This four-day learning exchange and technical assistance conference supports countries' efforts to develop and implement sustainable school meal programmes. Register [here](#).



Event digest

ECOWAS Stocktaking Conference: Increasing Financing for School Meals

The 2nd Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional technical conference on Homegrown School Meals took place in Dakar, Senegal. The conference highlighted the critical role of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in expanding home-grown school meal programmes. Participants from 20 countries in West Africa emphasized the need for sustainable financing solutions. Two reports were launched: [Sustainable Financing for School Meals in West Africa](#) helped drive discussions on partnerships with IFIs, donors, and innovative schemes. [Home-Grown School Feeding in West Africa: A Landscape Analysis](#) provided insights into current programmes, identifying gaps and challenges, and offering actionable recommendations.

Good Examples Spring Meeting: Presenting the latest national school meals case studies

In a recent webinar by the Good Examples Community of Practice, hosted by the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition, countries including Benin, Burundi, Denmark, Ghana, Togo, and Senegal shared insights from their programmes to reflect on strengths and challenges. Watch the webinar recording [here](#).



Resources and Publications

World Bank > Publication: 'School meals, social protection and human development'

The [working paper](#) provides estimates of the World Bank's investments in school meals as a social protection measure. It examines evidence and reviews implementation trends, focusing on South Asia and beyond.

Ukraine > Strengthening school meals amidst conflict

In times of war and economic hardship, investing in children's health and education is critical. To support Ukraine amidst its conflict, the World Health Organization's new policy brief, 'Expanding the national school meals programme in Ukraine' advocates for a universal free school meals system to enhance children's health, academic performance, and economic benefits. The policy brief is authored by contributors to the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition. [Read more](#).

Aberdeen City > Pilot peas dishes in schools

Soil Association Scotland and Aberdeen City Council launched the 'Give Peas a Chance' pilot project to introduce peas into school meals. [This initiative](#) aims to provide students with healthy food, while creating a market for local, organic, and climate-friendly plant protein. Organic pea menus are available in Aberdeen City Council schools until June 2025.

Emerging insights on school meals

What makes a successful school meal programme? How can countries learn from each other to implement good practices? How can school meals drive transformation towards a healthier planet? Discover the latest research, news, events, and opportunities by signing up [here](#) for updates from the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition.

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 as a member or partner.

