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To: The Respected Representatives of the World Food Programme
Subject: Commitment to Expanding the School Feeding Program in Yemen

Warm greetings,

The Ministry of Education extends its sincere appreciation and best wishes for continued success in your valued endeavors.

Based on the report submitted by the Technical Office at the Ministry's headquarters on 16 June 2025 regarding the expansion of school feeding programs, the Ministry of Education in Yemen reaffirms its commitment to expanding school feeding as part of global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This initiative is being implemented in collaboration with the United Nations, civil society, academia, charitable institutions, and the private sector. School feeding is a key component of the Ministry's Education Sector Plan (2023–2030) and a national priority to address malnutrition among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children. School meals contribute to improved learning outcomes, reduced dropout rates, and better long-term health and well-being.

By 2030, Yemen aspires to ensure that every child—regardless of gender or region—has access to a healthy school meal. To realize this vision, the Ministry pledges to collaborate with the School Meals Coalition to implement a comprehensive, sustainable, and high-quality national school feeding program. Achieving this core objective will require full cooperation with the Coalition on the following key areas:

1. Developing a national strategic policy for school feeding, involving all relevant sectors. The policy should define goals and rationales, and address funding, institutional capacity building, coordination, program design and implementation, community involvement, and linkage with agricultural development and local food production.
2. Working with donors to expand the “Healthy Kitchens for Local Production-Based School Feeding” program, in accordance with the Ministry's vision. This includes the gradual management of the program and the provision of diverse and nutritious meals using locally sourced ingredients, thereby boosting the local market.
3. Sharing best practices and lessons learned in a way that aligns with national and local contexts, in collaboration with partners, members of the School Meals Coalition, and regional and continental bodies.
4. Establishing and activating transparent and inclusive monitoring and evaluation systems that support continuous development and improvement.
5. Integrating communication and awareness activities into extracurricular school activities by implementing regular awareness campaigns on nutrition, hygiene, and public etiquette.
6. Strengthening local production-based school feeding programs through trilateral cooperation among allied countries. This includes promoting knowledge exchange and learning from pilot projects that connect school kitchens with local agribusinesses, and sharing these experiences with national stakeholders to expand and improve Yemen's school feeding initiatives.

We thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation.

With all due appreciation and respect,

Prof. Tareq Salem Al-Akbari
Minister of Education

