

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo joined the Coalition in July 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education in February 2022 around the following areas: Policy, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

The government has developed a national school meals strategy integrating principles of local ownership and community participation that has gone through extensive consultations and was adopted in August 2025. The strategy is aligned with the country's national development plan that goes through 2029.

The new strategy includes a cross-sectoral coordination body with representatives from the health, planning, agriculture, education and social affairs ministries as well as the private sector and local non-profit organizations. It also outlines infrastructure standards for canteens with an emphasis on inclusive design, with accessibility norms for children with disabilities.

To promote local food systems and sustainable sourcing, the government has designed a localized circular economy model based on non-monetary contributions, structured community groups, and partnerships with smallholder cooperatives. The model supports smallholder farmers, local markets, and agricultural production.

Next steps

The government is looking for technical support to finalize the national school meals investment plan and partnerships to support kitchens and storage infrastructure. It highlights additional needs around capacity building and training for local stakeholders and development of a digital monitoring system to track community contributions and food delivery.

Highlights

- Developed a national school meals strategy integrating principles of local ownership and community participation, adopted in August 2025 and aligned with the national development plan through 2029.
- To promote local food systems and sustainable sourcing, a localized circular economy model was designed based on non-monetary contributions, structured community groups, and partnerships with smallholder cooperatives.