

France

France is a founding co-chair and champion of the Coalition, joining in July 2021 and submitting its [commitment](#) through the President of the Republic in September 2021 around the following areas: Financing, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

France has maintained strong regulatory standards for school meals since 2011, including mandatory frequencies for fruits, vegetables, proteins, and limits on fats and sugars. These standards are currently being updated to include legumes and whole grains, with a revised framework expected in late 2025.

In 2023, 94% of school canteens complied with the requirement to offer at least one vegetarian meal per week. Additionally, 30% of school food was classified as sustainable and high-quality, including 17% organic products.

To improve access, the government subsidises school meals to enable proportional pricing based on the parents' income level. Additionally the "€1 canteen" initiative supports rural municipalities in offering low-cost meals for eligible households. As of 2024, over 2,400 municipalities benefit from this programme, with additional incentives for those sourcing sustainable food.

France actively contributes to global knowledge and cooperation through its research institutions (INRAE, IRD, CIRAD), which are key members of the Coalition's Research Consortium. France also supports the "Cities Feeding the Future" Initiative, now with over 300 members.

At the School Meals Coalition Taskforce meeting in Nairobi in 2024, France launched a tripartite cooperation with Brazil and the WFP Centre of Excellence to support school feeding in Benin and Senegal.

Financially, France has provided funding to school meals programmes globally since 2021, including through the French Initiative for Food Security and Nutrition (IFSAN), a grant mechanism of which 50% is earmarked for projects on children nutrition.

Highlights

- Maintains strong national standards for school meal nutrition and is updating them to include legumes and whole grains.
- Supports over 2,400 rural municipalities through the "€1 canteen" programme to ensure access to affordable, quality meals.
- Co-chairs the Coalition and has invested in global school meals since 2021, driving international cooperation through research, technical expertise, and partnerships in countries such as in Benin and Senegal.