

Iraq



Iraq joined the Coalition in June 2022 and submitted its [commitment](#) in October 2023 through the Ministry of Education. Iraq submitted commitments in the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Iraq assumed full responsibility for implementing school feeding operations in 2023-2024 and expanded its reach to over 770,000 students across 25 districts despite some administrative delays. The government is in the process of formally approving the school feeding policy and is working with partners to draft legislation to further institutionalize the programme.

Training is taking place for all staff involved in programme implementation, and a plan has been developed to engage the agriculture sector and local markets to strengthen the supply chain. Preliminary discussions are taking place on Home Grown School Feeding, to explore integration of local food production and vocational education to improve nutritional quality of school meals.

A digital system using School Connect as a reporting tool is being planned, with pilot trainings already having occurred. Nutrition guidelines are also being initiated.

The government is working toward participating in peer-to-peer activities of the Coalition to learn from other countries and global school feeding stakeholders, including the upcoming Global Summit of the Coalition in Brazil.

Next steps

The government recognizes the need for stronger coordination across ministries, robust legal frameworks and continuous capacity strengthening to achieve a sustainable and well-managed programme. It would welcome support to resolve misalignment of the fiscal and academic years to ensure timely budget allocations and procurement, finalizing a legal framework to ensure long-term financing of the programme, and ensuring sufficient human resources capacity for efficient implementation.

Highlights

- The government has assumed full responsibility for the national school feeding programme, and expanded its reach to over 770,000 students across 25 districts in 2023-2024.