

Zimbabwe



Zimbabwe joined the Coalition in June 2022.

Achievements

After a Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) was adopted in 2016, the Government put in place several policies and strategies to support implementation: the Social Protection Pillar of the National Development Strategy 1 (2020-2025) and the Multi-sectorial Food and Nutrition Strategy 2023-2025. A major goal of the latter is to strengthen linkages between the Ministries responsible for Education, Agriculture, Health, Social Welfare, Finance, Women Affairs and Youth. Operational guidelines for the Programme have been in place since 2019.

In 2025, legislation (Statutory Instrument 13 of 2025) mandated all schools to provide at least one hot meal per day, overseen by the Ministry of Health and Child Care. A budget of USD 4,410,929 million (ZiG 121,080,000.00) was allocated by the Government to finance the programme, complemented by funding from development partners. Schools are mandated to come up with School Business Units (SBU) to support the programme's sustainability, such as nutrition gardens, livestock rearing, orchards and small projects through commercial ventures.

Additional steps included a Food Safety Standards Guidelines completed in 2021 and School Nutrition Guidelines developed by the Ministries responsible for Education and Health in 2022.

The Government has also made school meals a priority of the Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Committees at the national, provincial and district levels. Quarterly reports on implementation of the HGSFP, with indicators on the number of schools providing school meals and the number of learners receiving them, are fed into the National Development Strategy 1.

The Government is implementing the HGSFP in 8014 primary schools, school heads are mandated to implement the programme and District School Inspectors monitor it.

Senior government officials across relevant ministries have also been trained on School Meal Planning, and the School Meal Planning plus (SMP+) online menu creation platform was created to support cost-efficient nutritious local menus.

Government officials were trained on a sustainable procurement model and pilots were initiated to explore a combination of provincial and school level procurement based on lessons learned from other countries.

Next steps

- Explore sustainable funding models.
- Prioritize local procurement to support local farmers, reduce transport costs and promote community engagement for ownership and accountability.
- Ensure meals are nutritiously balanced.
- Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system, provide training and strengthen multisectoral linkages.
- Continued exploration of steps to optimize Homegrown School Feeding.

Highlights

- USD 4,410,929 million (ZiG 121,080,000) allocated to finance the programme, complemented by funding from development partners and commercial ventures such as nutrition gardens, livestock rearing and orchards.
- Programme being implemented in 8014 primary schools, monitored by school health coordinators and regularly evaluated by District and School Inspectors.
- Government officials trained on sustainable procurement and pilots initiated to explore combination of provincial and school level procurement based on lessons learned from other countries.