

Rwanda



Rwanda joined the Coalition in July 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education in September 2021 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Rwanda has significantly expanded its programme, growing coverage from 874,244 students to over 4.47 million in pre-primary, primary and secondary levels. This scale up demonstrates Rwanda's strong commitment to improving child nutrition, educational outcomes and social protection through school meals, as marked by the following developments:

- A dedicated budget line for school meals increased from USD 6.25 million (RWF 8 billion) in 2021 to USD 73.4 million (RWF 94 billion) in 2024. The government now covers 90% of the food cost for all pre-primary and primary students, representing approximately 80% of students in the country.
- A School Feeding Financing Strategy (2023-2032) to ensure the programme's long-term sustainability, including a campaign directed at the public and private sectors.
- Operational guidelines, under review to align with programme implementation.
- Establishment of a National Multisectoral School Feeding Steering Committee and a School Feeding Technical Working Group, complemented by committees at the district and school level to ensure local ownership and accountability and smooth implementation.
- Creation of a multisectoral Task Force on Clean Cooking Energy, co-chaired by the Ministry of Education and WFP—an important milestone for the clean cooking agenda in schools.
- Training for school and community stakeholders on food safety and quality.
- Central and semi-central procurement by the government of long shelf-life commodities, to maximize the impact of the national government's support, leaving schools with the responsibility to procure fresh and non-food items. The government also covers bills for water and electricity to ensure WASH services.
- Development of procurement guidelines that prioritize sourcing of locally produced commodities, to strengthen local agriculture and rural livelihoods.
- Active government participation in regional and international collaboration to strengthen its program and share best practices, such as the East Africa School Meals Coalition Network and learning and exchange visits.

Next steps

Rwanda has experienced challenges around the following areas where it would welcome support:

- Limited access to clean cooking technologies in schools, meaning most (94.9%) use firewood which is inefficient and poses health and environment risks.
- Limited investment, with diversified investments from development partners and the private sector needed to complement the substantial increases made by the government.
- The need for continuous improvements in nutritional quality and diversity of school meals through fresh and nutritious food, bio-fortification and fortification to ensure meals meet children's dietary requirements and contribute to learning and development outcomes.

Highlights

- Demonstrated strong commitment to improving child nutrition, educational outcomes and social protection through school meals.
- Significant expansion of programme to grow coverage from 874,244 students to over 4.47 million in pre-primary, primary and secondary levels. Demonstration of strong commitment to improving child nutrition, educational outcomes and social protection through school meals.
- Budget increased from USD 6.25 million (RWF 8 billion) in 2021 to USD 73.4 million (RWF 94 billion) in 2024. Government now covers 90% of the food cost for all pre-primary and primary students, representing approximately 80% of students in the country.