

We're thankful for your support – now is the time to commit.

Thank you for your interest in the School Meals Coalition. In this document we provide guidance on how to prepare and submit a commitment toward the coalition's goals and objectives. The coalition represents a broad call to action that will take as many governments and supporting partners as possible to achieve the ambitious goal of providing every child with a nutritious meal in school everywhere by 2030.

← Continues

What kind of commitments is the Coalition looking for?

The Coalition is looking for ambitious commitments from governments, given the critical importance of their leadership in prioritizing school meals programmes, that demonstrate how a country will improve and scale its current programming or support other governments in doing so. The Coalition also encourages governments to articulate how they will or would like to work with other partners from academia, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to implement their commitments, to help guide those partners on how they can best support the Coalition's goals and objectives.

The Coalition welcomes commitments in the following categories:

Political

Commitments to ensure that national school meals programmes are prioritized, supported and funded will be critical to achieving the goals of the coalition.

Advocacy

Advocating for and raising awareness about the importance of school meals at national, regional and global levels is crucial, including ensuring school meals are prioritized in relevant global events such as the G20, the Global Education Summit, the Nutrition for Growth Summit and others. The coalition will also benefit from efforts that build support among a broad array of national stakeholders (including parliamentarians, private sector and NGO partners) and that raise awareness about school meals in national and regional conferences and meetings.

Technical Assistance & Knowledge Sharing

Members can choose to join or lead initiatives to support collective action, including the sharing of best practice through peer-to-peer learning and other mechanisms, and efforts to build a stronger base of research and share evidence to improve the reach and quality of programming.

Financial Support for Low Income Countries

International commitments toward supporting programmes in countries that do not have the resources necessary to ensure coverage for all vulnerable populations is an essential means for driving action. These commitments are welcome from all stakeholders, including governments, development banks, philanthropy and the private sector.





As suggested, commitments can also be shaped around the initiatives being set up in support of the coalition, currently to include:

A “Research Consortium,”

Launched in May 2021 and led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to provide the scientific evidence for which programmatic actions to prioritise, based on their impact and value for money, and to establish a 10-year research agenda.

A “Multisectoral Financing Task-force for School Health & Nutrition,”

founded by the Global Education Forum, to focus on the low fiscal capacity of low-income countries for school meals and school health as the most important challenge to the scale-up and transition to national school meals programmes.

An “Advocacy & Outreach Task-force” to highlight school meals’ transformational potential in global fora and advance the goals and objective of the coalition.

A “Peer-to-peer Community of Best Practice,”

to be established by the government of Germany to share lessons learned from national and local contexts and to inform and disseminate evidence-based policy and programme standards and guidance to strengthen school meals programmes.

A “Monitoring & Accountability Mechanism,”

being developed by the World Food Programme (WFP). The mechanism will include a global school meals database, in partnership with Dubai Cares, the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition and regional groups like the African Union and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA/NEPAD), to be used to track and monitor coalition accomplishments.

Please see Annex 1 for illustrative examples of specific commitments governments might consider putting forward.



What is the process for submitting a commitment?

The coalition requests a succinct one or two page document (see Annex 2 for a sample) that states the commitment your government is making toward achieving the goals of the coalition. Approval should be at Ministerial level at a minimum, preferably at Presidential level.

We suggest the commitment include a general statement of support for the coalition, alignment with its goals and a rationale for supporting it, and an enumeration of the commitments, actions or investments that will be made in support of the coalition's goals.

Submitting a commitment is the second step of becoming a member of the coalition, which follows the signing of the declaration of commitment to be showcased during the process leading to the UN Food Systems Summit and other relevant international moments in 2021. For governments that need more time to develop their commitments but want to become a member, you are still welcome to sign the declaration, but we hope all supportive governments will submit a commitment to articulate how they will scale and improve their own school meals programmes and/or work with other governments and partners in doing so.

How do I craft a commitment?

Commitments should be crafted in alignment with the particular context in which each government operates and in line with the challenges that must be overcome to scale and improve programming, or to support other governments in doing so.

For governments that have already facilitated a national consultation on school meals or recently approved a national school meals plan, a commitment might formalize the roadmap that has already been established in a consultative process. If a school feeding consultation or roundtable is being planned for the near future, the commitment development process is the perfect framework to drive that activity and shape its outcome. If there is still an opportunity to organize a specific national dialogue of the Food Systems Summit on school meals, a commitment could also be the result. UN agencies, NGO partners or other stakeholders are encouraged to consider how they can engage in these processes and in dialogues with governments about how their work can support eventual commitments.

In formulating commitments, country governments are encouraged to review existing national school meal policy and programs and consult with other stakeholders. Meeting the global targets set up by the coalition require converting commitments into clear actions which governments can easily track. We encourage governments and partners to think through their objectives using the SMART approach:

Specific

Each commitment should identify a specific action and indicate who is responsible for achieving it.

Measurable

Pledges should include an indicator to enable measuring progress and achievement of the commitment. Quantifiable indicators are easier to monitor and could indicate the baseline where relevant and possible.

Achievable

Commitments should be consistent with the level of progress achieved in the past. They should be as ambitious as possible, but mindful of the limits of what can be delivered in a realistic timeframe.

Relevant

Pledges should reflect national priorities related to capacity, quality, coverage, financing and monitoring of school meals programmes and challenges relevant to the context (at regional, national, or global levels) and be based on levels of progress achieved in the past.

Time-Bound

Commitments should have a realistic timeframe for achievement and specify key milestones to be achieved within that time. Ideally, commitments should cover more than one calendar or fiscal year and can be tracked and reported against.





How is this document going to be used by the coalition?

Your commitment will be made public in various forms. It will be posted on the coalition's website and be used in communications materials showcasing members and contributions to the coalition. This will provide those interested in supporting the coalition with the opportunity to look at existing commitments from governments, both as illustrative examples of what can be done and if appropriate, to support a specific commitment. The coalition encourages as much as possible for commitments to be carried out in collaboration and partnership in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

When and to whom do I send the commitment document?

As the coordinating body for the coalition, WFP has begun receiving commitments and hopes to have a group of commitments to showcase during the launch of the coalition at the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021 and during other moments throughout the fall of 2021 and beyond.

Final indications

**Send your commitment document to
declaration@schoolmealscoalition.org.**

Include the following information:

Country name

Contact name

Country logo

Contact information (email address)

Contact person and communications focal point

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[schoolmealscoalition.org](https://www.schoolmealscoalition.org)