

School Meals Coalition priorities for 2024

1. **Advance on country implementation:** Support and accompany countries in the implementation of their commitments; advance various streams of work related to technical support for countries, increasing implementation capacity (including the Coalition's established Initiatives and other initiatives or efforts that may arise). Support member countries in the implementation of Initiative's learnings, as they deem appropriate, identify needs, and find partners to help addressing the needs, continue to support peer-to-peer engagement. Encourage countries that joined the Coalition recently to develop bold and ambitious commitments. Help increasing the connection among different levels of governance (e. g. among cities and national authorities).
2. **Encourage sustainable financing for school meals:** Continue to strengthen the Sustainable Financing Initiative, including analysis of school meals global needs and funding scenarios. Ensure countries have support to develop sustainable financing plans.
3. **Establish the Coalition's database to monitor progress through the Data and Monitoring Initiative,** considering that the coalition is rooted in country level action: Release the first version of the database, test the database utility with African Union; connect with work of other SMC initiatives and agencies generating evidence and data. Strengthen partnerships for data, indicator development and data collection processes at country, regional and global levels. Work with UNESCO on reporting for the new SDG4 indicator on school meals. Draft the State of School feeding worldwide (for publication in 2025).
4. **Support the establishment of the new initiatives announced in Paris:** Cities Feeding the Future (led by the Milan Food Policy Pact), Parliamentarians toolkit (led by IPNED) and the proposed Brazilian initiative "International Cooperation Strategy on School Feeding".
5. **Support the development of regional networks under the Coalition:** support the meeting in Philippines or Cambodia. Support African Union HGSAF activities and the work of the Regional Network in East Africa (1st of March and Year of Education); in Latin America, review the partnership between FAO and WFP to support the network and the organization of the meeting in Mexico; support the meeting of ECOWAS. Advance any additional regional conversations. Support the Regional networks in organizing multi-stakeholder discussions on sustainable financing of school feeding programs, as appropriate.
6. **Define and approve the engagement of the private sector with the Coalition:** Approve the private sector Rules of Engagement and begin their implementation, starting with private sector entities that have already expressed interest in the Coalition. Actively monitor risks.
7. **Support Kenya in preparing the Task Force Ministerial Meeting of 2024 and ensure its success:** Ensure Ministerial level participation from all Task Force countries, identify any special guests, and special show-cases and information-sharing on good practices by champions. Agree on key deliverables, including final declaration.

- 8. Define calendar of events, secure high-level political support from Task Force countries and define priorities for outreach:** Support any advocacy activities (such as the organization of events, press releases, and inputs into joint statements/declarations) during Italy's G7 presidency, Brazil's G20 presidency (with AU being a permanent member since 2023), ASEAN Mayor's Forum, the Summit of the Future, etc. ; identify countries that are not yet in the Coalition that need to be invited/supported to join; identify SMC champions based on best practices.
- 9. Support policymakers and parliamentarians in member states with independent and robust evidence to guide decision making:** Ensure findings and insights from research are turned into products designed for decision makers. Generate and assemble evidence on the design, cost, implementation, and impact of school meals and complementary school health programmes to make the case for investment. Formalize networks of global academics and practitioners, and knowledge hubs, to ensure equitable partnerships across regions, and foster a new cohort of researchers focused on this area.