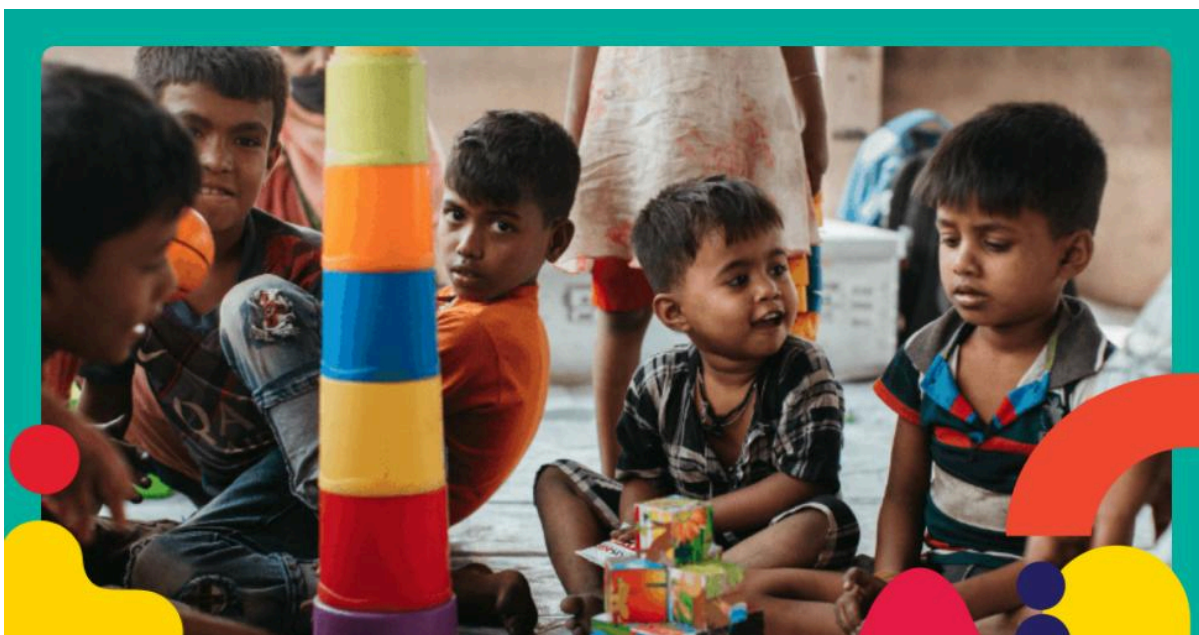




Welcome to new Coalition members Kyrgyzstan and Slovenia, and two partners: TOKTUT, which provides school meals through the [“Lunch Box” Initiative](#) in Turkey; and 'Institut Agro, which promotes school meals and sustainable food systems in France and at global level. The Coalition now includes 104 governments, three regional bodies and over 130 partners. Want to learn more about how the Coalition works and how to engage? Watch this [video](#).

Today, 29 October, 10am Kenya / 7am GMT via [livestream](#)

Join the Opening Session at Second Coalition Task Force Ministerial Meeting

Today, the 2nd [School Meals Coalition Task Force](#) Ministerial Meeting will be held in Nairobi, under the patronage of the Kenyan President H.E. William Samoei Ruto. Ministers and high-level representatives of the [12 members of the Task Force](#), and partners, will meet to review progress, spotlight country successes, and set the ambition for the next two years. For more information, please contact the Coalition Secretariat.

The opening session, including Kenyan President H.E. William Samoei Ruto, will be broadcast live [here](#).



Kenya announces operational plan to reach 10 million learners by 2030

Launch of National School Meals Coalition to help fulfil national commitment



Kenya's Principal Secretary, State Department for Basic Education, Dr. Belio Kipsang, signs the Terms of Reference for the National School Meals Coalition with the support of partners attending the ceremony. Photos credit: Government of Kenya.

On 8 October, the Government of Kenya announced the country's operational plan to reach 10 million learners with school meals by 2030, an increase from 2.6 million today. To help get there, Kenya just launched its National School Meals Coalition. The operational plan includes transitioning to clean cooking in schools and also aims to change attitudes and behaviors towards nutritious foods. The government's vision and plan can be a big inspiration for other countries looking to improve food systems and environmental sustainability. "The planet-friendly approach to school feeding will be at the heart of the scale up and focus of the coalition," says Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Education, Julius Migos Ogamba (see Forbes article [here](#)). Find more information [here](#).

G7 Development Ministers commit to supporting the Coalition

This month, G7 Development Ministers pledged to support the School Meals Coalition in scaling up efforts to deliver safe, nutritious, and sustainably produced food through school meal programmes. Read their Communiqué [here](#).

Global leaders in school meals gather at UN General Assembly



Participants at the Partnerships to Catalyse Action to End Poverty, Hunger and Malnutrition event. The front row includes, from left, Mr. Brieuc Pont, France's Special Envoy on Nutrition; Ms. Carmen Burbano de Lara, Director of the School Meals Coalition Secretariat, and Director of School Meals and Social Protection at WFP; Brazil's Minister of Social Assistance, Hon. Wellington Dias, and the UN Deputy Secretary General, Ms. Amina Mohamed. Second pic, two learners from Laos enjoy their school lunch meals. Photos credit: World Vision International and WFP;(Ildiko Hamos-Sohlo).

Last month, senior leaders met at the annual UN General Assembly to discuss strengthening global cooperation on a range of priorities, including school meals. At a World Vision International and Brazil's G20-aligned [event](#), leaders from Brazil, France, Norway, Spain, the School Meals Coalition and the World Bank emphasized the critical role of school meals, especially in emergency and humanitarian contexts.

Brazil's First Lady H.E. Rosângela Lula da Silva stressed that these programmes are essential for tackling food insecurity and are a key policy backed by the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, to be launched next month. Honourable Wellington Dias, Brazil's Development and Social Assistance Minister, explained how national programmes such as school meals, Bolsa Familia and the Cisternas initiative, contributed to an 85% reduction in severe food insecurity in Brazil. Welcoming the forthcoming Global Alliance, Honourable Anne Beathe Tvinneim, Norway's Minister of International Development, highlighted that investing in school meals will improve nutrition, health, education and social equality. She added that "If we make sure that the food in the schools is bought from local family farmers, it will even empower local communities. You can count on Norway in the fight against hunger. We are in 2024, we cannot accept that children are denied the most basic need to thrive, to grow, to live."

A member of World Vision's Children Advisory Group, 16-year-old Emmanuela from Ghana, called on world leaders to listen to children's experiences to inform the design of child-centred school meal programmes. Would you like to support the Children's Advisory Group's Call on world leaders to end child hunger? Find it [here](#), and the Summit of the Future Outcome Document [here](#).



Quote of the month

Find quotes of the month, which you can include in your communication and advocacy messages, including social media, supporting school meals.

“Djibouti has joined the School Meals Coalition to enrich our national school meals programme through learning from other countries and share our own success story in school meals financing. We are proud to be implementing an ambitious policy, pushing for universal primary school enrolment by 2025. Our free school meals, fully funded by the Government of Djibouti, are the cornerstone of this achievement because they encourage children to attend school, ensuring good health, and improving their performance in class.”

Mr. Mohamed Abdallah Mahyoub, Secretary General, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Djibouti

“We already know what works to end hunger and poverty. Over the past few months, we have been working with countries and international organizations to develop a policy basket for the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. It brings together all the experience accumulated over decades in school meals, social protection, income transfers and other programmes. We want to make the Global Alliance a mechanism that provides the political impetus needed to mobilize existing funds and better organize them around two principles: focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable and ensuring consistent implementation of national policies.”

The Honourable Wellington Dias, Development and Social Assistance Minister, Brazil



Featured voices

[Guinea](#): Minister Ismael Nabe explains why it is extremely important for the government to continue funding the school meals programme and to capitalise on its immense benefits.

[Ecuador](#): Local communities are enthusiastic about the newly launched national school meals programme. They are getting busy ensuring there are enough fresh food supplies for over 35,000 children to be reached in 2025.

Feel free to amplify these voices on your digital platforms and connect with us to share what is also happening in school meals in your local community and country.



Upcoming events & initiatives

High-Level School Meals Regional Meetings

Three regional meetings will facilitate new commitments and robust exchange of experiences by governments and other key school meals stakeholders. Discussions will include partnership opportunities that can further support countries' efforts to extend and improve the quality of programmes under the School Meals Coalition. If interested, please connect with the [Coalition Secretariat](#).

12-13 November > Ukraine will host the European summit in Kyiv.

18-20 November > Cambodia, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea will co-host the South-East Asia summit, in Siem Reap, also including Japan, China and South Korea.

3-5 December > São Tomé and Príncipe will host the 3rd seminar for the community of Portuguese-speaking countries (CPLP).

11-22 November > Highlighting your COP29 activities

Are you planning any events at the upcoming UN climate talks, COP29, either in-person or online? The Coalition Secretariat is preparing a special COP29 online feature story highlighting events around the conference to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan. Please send your updates and links to smc.communications@wfp.org by 4 November.

18-19 November > Launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

Launching at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the Global Alliance will strengthen efforts to mobilize funds and knowledge from different countries and international bodies to support the implementation and expansion of effective actions, public policies and programmes, including school meals. How join the Global Alliance: [here](#).

9-12 December > Global Child Nutrition Forum

The Global Child Nutrition Forum 2024 will take place in Osaka, Japan, organized by The [Global Child Nutrition Foundation](#) (GCNF) and [International Child Nutrition Japan](#), in collaboration with the Government of Japan and the School Meals Coalition. This technical-level meeting will gather governments and their partners to exchange experiences on improving school meal programmes. The results of the 2024 Global Survey of School Meal Programs will be shared. Register to attend [here](#). For more details, visit GCNF's [website](#).



School Meals Initiatives

Philippines harnesses the power of traditional foods to improve quality of school meals

The government is integrating traditional and indigenous fruits and vegetables from school gardens and local farmers into school meals. This innovation enhances school meal quality and diversity, while promoting positive perceptions of indigenous foods among children. Interested in learning how this partnership is working? Read more [here](#) and contact [Sharon Mendonce](#) for more information. To learn more about the Philippines' support of the School Meals Coalition read this [blog post by Dr. Galban](#), Assistant Secretary for Operations at the Department of Education in the Philippines.

Launch of the NutriHarvest Project to deliver 17 million nutritious school meals

HarvestPlus, a School Meals Coalition partner, and Cargill have launched the [NutriHarvest project](#), a US\$ 3 million initiative aiming to deliver 17 million nutritious school meals and increase access to nutritious food to over 119,000 farmers in India, Kenya, Tanzania, and Guatemala. The project will promote integration of nutrient-dense crops into local school meal programmes in the 4 countries, to improve dietary diversity and nutrition. Want to learn more about this project? Contact: m.hussain@harvestplus.solutions



Event digest

15 October > Launch of school meals toolkit for Parliamentarians

The [International Parliamentary Network for Education](#) (IPNEd), in partnership with delegations

from the Parliaments of Tanzania and the Republic of Ireland, launched the [School Meals: A Toolkit for Parliamentarians](#), supported by the Coalition, during a special session at the [149th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Geneva](#). The toolkit provides members of parliaments with the evidence to make the case for school meals along with actionable advice and guidance to support them to use parliamentary functions to create, expand and improve school meal programmes. Read the full article [here](#). To support advocacy efforts by parliamentarians in your country, you can download the toolkit [here](#) and contact IPNEd via info@ipned.org.

15 October > Global Health 2050 launch at World Health Summit

The Global Health 2050 report, the third report of the Lancet Commission on Investing in Health (CIH 3.0), was launched at a keynote event at the 2024 World Health Summit in Berlin. The report proposes that focused health investments can improve human welfare by 2050, emphasising the importance of investing in the first 8,000 days of life to prevent early exposure to health risks that increase premature mortality. [Watch the launch event](#).

14-18 October > The World Food Forum: Good food for all, for today and tomorrow

The dynamic forum leveraged the power of intergenerational collaboration, creativity across policies, education, science and cultural investments. The World Food Day commemoration, on 16 October, amplified this year's "Right to Foods for a Better life and a Better Future" theme, emphasizing the need to invest more in producing diverse and nutritious foods, affordability and safety to promote a healthy diet accessible to all people. Supporters of school meals highlighted the role of programmes in promoting a healthy eating lifestyle among children and their families and strengthening food systems and economies. You can find all sessions [here](#).

10-11 October > School meals for healthier and sustainable African cities

The 6th Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Regional Forum in Africa held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, brought together 50 representatives of 14 African cities, resulting in the launch of the "Summary of Agreement and Ways Forward", a declaration of intent presented to the African Union, aimed to build support around promoting nutrition centred school meal programmes. Three new cities joined the Milan Pact, expanding the influence of the Cities Feeding the Future Initiative in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia; and Rufisque and Ziguinchor in Senegal. The conference was organized by the Cities Feeding the Future, an Initiative of the School Meals Coalition, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, and the City of Addis Ababa. If interested in how the Cities Feeding the Future Initiative is transforming Cities' approach to school meals, contact mufpp.secretariat@comune.milano.it.

24-27 September > Research Consortium Annual Showcase cities

The Research Consortium's Annual Showcase featured four engaging sessions presenting the latest evidence and insights on the evolving landscape of school meals. [Catch up via the recordings](#).

27-29 August > The School Meals Forum for LAC cities

In case you missed the key outcome of the special session for the School Meals Coalition member states at the School Meals Forum for LAC in Mexico, find the Declaration [here](#).



Resources

Value for Money of School Meals Programmes in Ethiopia and Malawi

The Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition's 'Analytics & Metrics' Community of Practice have published their first Value for Money studies on school meal programmes in [Ethiopia](#) and [Malawi](#). These reports analyze the costs of each programme and quantify its impact on education, health and nutrition, social protection, and agriculture.

The SABER School Feeding Policy Tool to assess quality of school meals

The World Bank Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) policy tool, a ten-year analysis of its use by countries in developing their national school meals programmes, is now [published](#). Since the launch of the SABER initiative in 2011, 68 percent low-income countries and 54 percent lower-middle-income countries have used the policy tool to assess the strength of their national policies for school meals and complementary programmes and identify actionable priorities to improve programmes.

The School Meals, Social Protection and Human Development Paper

With nearly 420 million children reached worldwide, school meals are among the largest-scale social protection interventions. This [World Bank Paper](#) traces the evolution of school meals programmes globally, examines the empirical evidence underpinning them, reviews select implementation practices with an emphasis on South Asia, and provides one of the first estimates of World Bank's investments in school meals.

Yours sincerely,

School Meals Coalition Secretariat

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to be on our regular mailing list, please contact us at global.smcsecretariat@wfp.org. Please use the same email address if you would like to join the School Meals Coalition as a member or partner.