

WELCOME to Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) as the newest members of the School Meals Coalition. Joining the Coalition are also partners: Mercy Corps, Rikolto International, Plant Foods for Climate Campaign (Finland) and the National Foodservice Association of Ukraine.

The Coalition now unites 106 governments, 5 regional bodies, and 130+ partners in transforming school meal systems globally.

Coalition Task Force unveils priorities to accelerate global efforts on school meals



The Ministerial meeting, hosted by the Government of Kenya, in Nairobi, focused on celebrating [the achievements](#) of the Coalition, the pressing financial needs and the priorities to increase support to countries to extend school meals coverage and improve programme quality. In the next two years, the Coalition will focus more on supporting governments to speed up implementation of impactful actions to combat child hunger and poverty.

In his keynote address at the opening, **His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya**, called for a multisectoral approach and greater investment to build sustainable planet-friendly school meal programmes.

To learn more about the event, find the news release [here](#) and watch [here](#) the opening with Kenya's President. Read [here](#) the Research Consortium's Annual Research Statement to the Task Force.

To learn more on the achievements of the Coalition, watch [here](#)

“Kenya is also addressing climate challenges by combining initiatives that promote resilience, including robust support for school meals, provision of local sourcing, and fostering sustainable practices such as clean cooking and the adoption of drought-resistant crops. Through advocacy under the Call to Action: Climate-Friendly School Feeding, we are embracing eco-friendly solutions.”

- **President of Kenya, H.E. William Samoei Ruto, speaking at the Coalition’s Ministerial Task Force Meeting in Nairobi**



Read the School Meals Coalition [Priorities for 2025-2026](#) endorsed by the Task Force

School Meals: A key pillar of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

Governments and partners commit to doubling school meals coverage by 2030



Heads of State and Government at the opening ceremony of the G20 Summit at the Museum of Art of Rio de Janeiro.
Photo credit: Ricardo Stuckert/PR

G20 leaders launched the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, championed by Brazil’s President Lula, at their summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Alliance serves as a network of networks, mobilizing governments and partners to tackle hunger, poverty, and inequality through transformative public policies and social initiatives – one of them is school meals.

The Global Alliance introduced the ‘Policy Basket’, a set of evidence-based programmes and policies designed to tackle hunger and poverty. A key part of this is the [School Meals](#) policy developed by the School Meals Coalition Secretariat and endorsed by 44 Coalition member states and 33 partners.

In the summit’s [declaration](#), G20 leaders applauded the Global Alliance's efforts to drive support for country-led, large-scale, and proven programmes, such as home-grown school meals, to tackle hunger and poverty worldwide.

“The world produces enough food for all, and we know from experience that a range of well-designed public policies, such as cash transfers like the Bolsa Familia programme and nutritious school meals for children, have the potential to end the scourge of hunger and restore hope and dignity for people.”

President of Brazil, H.E. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

At the G20 Social Summit’s 2030 Sprints side event, 14 governments and 11 partners pledged to double school meals for children in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, aiming to reach 150 million more children by 2030. Highlights include:

- ✓ **Indonesia’s** commitment to reach 78 million children by 2029;
- ✓ **Nigeria** doubling its reach from 10 to 20 million children annually;
- ✓ The **World Bank** extending social protection to 500 million people by 2030, including school meals;
- ✓ The **Children’s Investment Fund Foundation** (CIFF) and the **African Development Bank** (AfDB) establishing the US\$ 100 million End School Age Hunger Fund (ESAH Fund) to support African countries in their ambition to achieve universal school meals;
- ✓ And a \$25 billion investment from the **Inter-American Development Bank** to support country-led implementation of the Global Alliance’s [Policy Basket](#), including school meals.

Read all commitments [here](#), and watch the recording of the Sprint 2030 event [here](#).

The School Meals Coalition and its initiatives will act as the primary vehicle providing school meal-specific support across the Alliance's three pillars (national, financial and knowledge). Countries and other entities are welcome to join both the Alliance and the Coalition for enhanced and impactful collaboration.

European leaders gather in Ukraine to strengthen school meals at national, regional & global levels



(Left) Participants at the summit hosted by the Government of Ukraine and (right) children from a school in Ukraine enjoying their lunch.
Photo credits: Ukraine’s School Nutrition Reform / WFP Ukraine

Ministers and other [high-level representatives](#) from across Europe and other regions convened in Kyiv for the [European Regional School Meals Summit](#), hosted by the Government of Ukraine under the leadership of the [First Lady Olena Zelenska](#), to drive forward the shared mission of ensuring every child worldwide has access to nutritious meals by 2030. Under the umbrella of the Coalition, the summit brought together over 20 governments, represented by 10 ministers

across multiple sectors, and 15 ambassadors. They shared experiences, strengthened partnerships, secured sustainable financing, and fostered regional collaboration to position school meals as vital to health, education, and economic development.

The event highlighted [Ukraine's bold leadership](#) amid extraordinary circumstances, and saw six Ukrainian municipalities—Kropyvnytskyi, Zhytomyr, Brovary, Zaporizhzhia, Sheptytskyi, and Ivano-Frankivsk—join the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and the Coalition's Cities Feeding the Future initiative, advancing sustainable food systems through local governance. [Learn more about the outcomes here.](#)

Southeast Asia unites to advance school meals, nutrition and sustainable development

Under the umbrella of the Coalition, [the Southeast Asia School Meals Coalition Summit](#), co-hosted by Cambodia, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea, concluded with a [strong commitment](#) to advancing child nutrition, education, and sustainable development. Over 130 delegates from seven countries in the region and 39 partner organizations convened to share innovations, emphasize evidence-based policymaking, and strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration.

Significant financial commitments were recognized, alongside a push for sustainable financing mechanisms, including blended and climate financing, to ensure scale and sustainability. The summit closed with a unified commitment to collaboration, with the Philippines announcing it will host [the next Asia regional summit in 2025](#), and Cambodia set to request ASEAN's engagement with the School Meals Coalition.



Delegates visit a primary school in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, to learn more about the impact of their school meal programme on the children and community.
Photo credit: WFP/Cambodia



Featured voices

[Lao PDR:](#) H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phout Simmalavong, Minister of Education and Sports, Lao PDR, and Marc-André Prost, WFP Representative and Country Director in Lao PDR, reflect on the country's journey to strengthen child nutrition, education, and boost production by smallholder farmers through school meal programmes.

[Lesotho:](#) Giorgia Maddalon and Tsitsi Matope from the School Meals Coalition Secretariat explore Lesotho's advancement in school meals and the establishment of the new School Health and Nutrition Technical Assistance Facility supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and WFP. This crucial intervention is a key step in strengthening Lesotho's ability to advance its national commitments to providing school meals.

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



Upcoming engagements

3-5 December > São Tomé and Príncipe to host School Meals Seminar for CPLP

The III Seminar for the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) will promote the exchange of good practices and knowledge to consolidate school meals in the CPLP member states. The seminar will be followed by a high-level ministerial meeting attended by member states' ministers of education, high-level representatives of the United Nations, and other partners. **Find more information [here](#), and follow the event's livestream** on Thursday, the 5 December, 9am-1pm, São Tomé and Príncipe time (GMT +0) on YouTube [here](#) and Facebook [here](#).

3-4 December > 2nd Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Asia Pacific Regional Forum

The Governor of Bangkok, Chadchart Sittipunt will host the next regional forum in Bangkok, Thailand. Within the Cities Feeding the Future Initiative framework, the forum will explore the significance of school meals for urban food policies. **For more information: mufpp.secretariat@comune.milano.it**

9-12 December > Global Child Nutrition Forum

The Global Child Nutrition Forum 2024, 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, will be a dynamic platform for governments and partners to exchange ideas, showcase trends, and highlight impactful research on school meal programmes. Highlights of the 2024 Global Survey of School Meal Programmes will be shared. **For more details, visit GCNF's [website](#).**



Event digest

2024 Global Education Meeting

Held in Fortaleza, Brazil, and organized by UNESCO, the GEM meeting marked a significant milestone in the global pursuit of education equity and financing, with the adoption of the powerful [Fortaleza Declaration](#)—which includes school meals—by over 650 participants including over 50 ministers from across the globe.

Find more information [here](#).

COP29 side-event and new commentary piece on planet-friendly school meals

With the intersection of school meals and climate change being a priority at COP28, governments and partners pressed the urgency of implementing planet-friendly school meals at the COP29 discussions held in Baku, Azerbaijan. A [side event](#) brought together a diverse panel of experts including contributors to the [School Meals Coalition White Paper](#) (launched at COP28), the [I-CAN initiative](#) (launched at COP27), and CGIAR collaborators. Planet-friendly school meals offer a unique platform to improve children's health, promote equitable economies, and transform food systems, contributing to multiple nutrition and environment goals.

How school meals link food and climate justice to achieve the SDGs

The Coalition's Sustainable Financing Initiative (SFI), in collaboration with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), recently published a [report](#) on how school meals can drive food system reform and link food justice with climate justice. A virtual dialogue gathered experts to discuss the financing needed to the transformative potential of school meals in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Watch the event recording [here](#) and a special message from Gordon Brown [here](#).



Feature publication

Canada's National School Food Policy

Canada's newly launched [policy](#) marks a progressive step towards ensuring children have access to healthy food at school, empowering them to learn, grow, and achieve their full potential. Backed by the government's budgetary commitment of CAD\$1 billion (USD \$738 million) made earlier this year, the policy paves the way for a new national school meals programme, set to benefit 400,000 children annually.

Yours sincerely,

School Meals Coalition Secretariat

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