



Highlights

The School Meals Coalition at UNFSS+4: Championing Sustainable Investment and Food System Transformation *The UN Food Systems Summit +4 Countdown: 27 - 29 July*



In Rwanda, Clementine, Margarete, and Augustin are carrying freshly harvested vegetables (amaranth) from the field to the delivery motorcycle. These vegetables are being delivered to local schools to be served as part of the school meals. © WFP/Isaac Onyango

The upcoming 2nd UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4), to be held in Addis Ababa and co-hosted by Ethiopia and Italy, marks a pivotal moment to reflect on progress, strengthen collaboration, and unlock finance and investments to accelerate food systems transformation. As a flagship outcome of the original Summit in 2021, the School Meals Coalition will be front and centre - spotlighting how national school meal programmes have become a leading example of food systems transformation.

On Day 2, the Coalition will be leading the [featured event](#) 'Unlocking Sustainable Investments for Home-Grown School Meals'. By presenting evidence and hearing governments' lessons learned, the session will explore coordinated, multisectoral approaches that demonstrate how school meals are serving as a platform for delivering on food systems transformation, education, and social protection goals through sustainable and innovative finance mechanisms.

Visit the Coalition's [Food Systems Summit +4 dedicated page](#) for up-to-date information, including

summit registration, plenary sessions and side events from Coalition members and partners, as these get confirmed.

If you're planning activities for UNFSS+4, write to the [School Meals Coalition Secretariat](#) to amplify your efforts and increase visibility across Coalition channels.

Haiti exceeds national target for local procurement of school meals ahead of schedule

In only 10 years, Haiti has scaled up local sourcing for school meals from just 1% in 2015 to 70% today—already exceeding the [government's national commitment](#) to reach 50% by 2026. It's advancing steadily toward the 2030 goal of 100% locally sourced ingredients for school meals. This is a significant milestone in the country's effort to strengthen local agriculture and ensure the long-term sustainability of its national school meals programme. This progress is part of a nationally led effort by the Government of Haiti, with technical and financial support from multilateral partners, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank. Despite structural challenges, strong national leadership – coupled with collaboration from partners, including the Global Partnership for Education, the World Food Programme and several School Meals Coalition member governments, including Canada, France, Germany and the United States of America – has propelled the programme forward. It is creating long-term links between schools and smallholder farmers to strengthen local agriculture, while supporting learning and nutrition. [Learn more.](#)

Nesmy Manigat, Former Minister of National Education and Vocational Training of Haiti and current Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee at Global Partnership for Education (GPE), shares his views on the progress in his country, in his special editorial 'Feeding Hope: The Haitian Experience of a National School Feeding Policy. [Read here.](#)

Burundi and Ethiopia Lead the Eastern Africa School Meals Coalition Network

Burundi and Ethiopia were [elected](#) the new co-chairs of the Eastern Africa School Meals Coalition Network for 2025, assuming leadership earlier in the year under the stewardship of their respective Ministries of Education. Dedicated to advancing school feeding programmes throughout the region, the Network is positioned to drive greater policy alignment, sustainable financing, and national ownership. The Co-chairs guide the network, consisting of from 11 Eastern Africa countries (Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda), ensuring that regional priorities remain central to global discussions about school meals, enhancing efforts to provide universal, nutritious meals for children.

This month's special Community Practice session led by the co-chairs addressed sustainable financing strategies for school meal initiatives. Countries shared successful approaches and strategies for mobilizing domestic resources. Preparations are underway for an in-person regional meeting ahead of the School Meals Coalition Global Summit in September in Brazil. As the Network aims to enhance collaboration, members are gearing up to advocate for increased investments and long-term policy commitments to expand the reach of school meal programmes across the region. Learn more about the Coalition's [regional networks](#).



School Meals in Action

The United Kingdom expands free school meals to over half a million more children

The United Kingdom has announced a landmark policy shift to expand free school meals to all children in households receiving Universal Credit, starting in September 2026. By removing outdated income thresholds, the government aims to lift 100,000 children in England out of poverty, improve attendance and learning outcomes, and ease cost-of-living pressures for families, saving parents an estimated £500 per child each year.

This move is part of the UK's Plan for Change and the anticipated Child Poverty Strategy. It follows sustained calls from education experts, parliamentarians, and civil society — many of whom are partners of the School Meals Coalition — for more inclusive access to school meals, aimed at breaking down barriers to opportunity and giving children a fair start in life. [Learn more.](#)

Pakistan strengthens coordination on school meals through national consultation

Pakistan hosted a national multi-stakeholder consultation in Islamabad to advance coordinated action on school meals across provinces. Convened by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and the World Food Programme, the two-day meeting brought together federal and provincial authorities, development partners, NGOs, academia, and private sector actors.

Provinces shared concrete steps: Balochistan presented a multi-year action plan and committed new budget; Punjab will expand to more districts; Sindh plans to launch a new programme; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will build on its cash-based model; and Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan Administered Kashmir are exploring scale-up options. The consultation affirmed school meals as a shared national priority and part of the government's broader efforts to reduce dropout rates, improve learning, and support low-income families, and serves as a national preparatory milestone ahead of the School Meals Coalition Global Summit this September. [Learn more.](#)



Mark your calendar

2 July > Scaling Up School Meals: A High-Level Discussion on Sustainable Investment

During the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)
Seville, Spain, 30 June – 3 July

The FfD4 conference presents a unique opportunity to transform financing at all levels, including support for reforming the international financial architecture and addressing the financing challenges that prevent the urgently needed investment push for the Sustainable Development Goals. School meals will be featured in a special high-level side event, 'Investing in the Future: Financing School Feeding as a Cornerstone for Ending Hunger, Building Resilience and Promoting Development' to be held on 2 July, 2.30pm - 4pm CET. Co-hosted by the Government of Brazil, the World Food Programme's Centre of Excellence, and global partners including the School Meals Coalition's Sustainable Financing Initiative, this discussion will explore how sustainable and innovative financing for school meals can serve as a multi-sectoral tool to help address hunger, poverty and food system transformation. Participants will hear insights from Brazil's national programme and the [RAES regional network](#), along with the initiative's global and country perspectives on mobilizing sustainable and innovative financing for school meals. The event will highlight how scaling up financing for school meals is a crucial component in advancing the broader Financing for Development agenda. Attendance is limited to accredited participants, and details can be found through [this link](#).

15-17 July > The 11th Regional School Meals Forum for Latin America & the Caribbean – San Pedro Sula, Honduras

The Government of Honduras and the World Food Programme are organizing this high-level annual regional meeting, which aims to contribute to the strengthening of national programmes, promote the exchange of knowledge and create opportunities for discussion among participants. The forum brings together ministers and officials responsible for school meals, donors, international financial institutions, the private sector, academia and UN agencies. The event will feature the launch of the Fill the Nutrient Gap Report in Peru and Guatemala, prepared jointly by the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Food Programme, highlighting how school meals in these countries are driving improved nutrition and sustainable food systems. The Forum is organizing a special meeting for School Meals Coalition members and partners to discuss areas of common interest and share progress on their respective national commitments. This meeting will also prepare Coalition members for their participation in the upcoming School Meals Coalition Global Summit, to be held in Fortaleza, Brazil, in September. Details on the regional forum participation will be available soon. Learn more about [last year's event hosted by Mexico](#).

31 July > Expo Osaka special Event “School Meals as Food Policy Catalysts in ASEAN Cities” – Osaka, Japan

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) will host a session at Expo Osaka titled “School Meals as Food Policy Catalysts in ASEAN Cities” at the Italy Pavilion. The event will spotlight how school meals can push urban food policy transformation, sharing insights from a project led by the Municipality of Milan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, with support from Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The initiative engaged 29 cities across 8 ASEAN countries through capacity-building and feasibility studies in six pilot cities. The session will also explore funding opportunities to help cities move from planning to implementation. Interested ASEAN cities are encouraged to register by the end of June via mufpp.secretariat@comune.milano.it or [read more](#).

SAVE THE DATE! 18-19 September > School Meals Coalition Global Summit

Get ready for this year's Global Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil! In-person participation is by invitation only, and invites have already been sent to members and partners. Members and partners are asked to ensure Minister/CEO participation is confirmed, if not yet done. For those who wish to follow the discussions remotely, the event will be livestreamed online. More information will be available soon on the [Coalition website](#).

In case you missed it

Smart Returns: Unpacking the Value for Money of Namibia's School Meals Programme

A new study by the Coalition's Research Consortium's 'Analytics & Metrics' Community of Practice puts a spotlight on Namibia's national school meals programme, reinforcing the case for school meals as high-impact investments. The "Value for Money of School Feeding Programmes in Namibia" report highlights how these programmes not only enhance educational outcomes and nutrition but also deliver wide-ranging benefits across various sectors. The findings provide compelling evidence for decision-makers and partners seeking to align school feeding with national development objectives. [Read the study.](#)



We would like to hear from you!

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to be on our regular mailing list, please [visit this link](#). If you would like to join the School Meals Coalition, you can find the Declaration of Commitment for governments or the Declaration of Support for partners [here](#).



School Meals Coalition Newsletter

Produced by the School Meals Coalition Secretariat
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