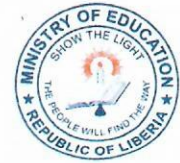




REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



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REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

**COMMITMENT DOCUMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA TO THE
SCHOOL MEALS COALITION**

The Government of Liberia expresses its strong support for the scaling up of the School Feeding Program as a strategy for access, retention, and completion, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The government believes that the school meal program serves as an important policy tool to enhance human capital and promote social and economic growth, as well as sustainable food systems in the country. This program addresses child hunger and poverty, supports child nutrition, enhances learning, and contributes to long-term well-being and health equity. Additionally, it strengthens local food systems and economies and promotes gender equality by encouraging girls to stay in school.

The Government of Liberia also believes that school meal programs offer benefits beyond simply providing food in schools. These programs enhance and diversify children's diets, educate them about healthier eating habits, and support local markets and food systems by utilizing locally grown produce, thus creating better opportunities for smallholder farmers, many of whom are women. The Government places significant emphasis on the school meals program, particularly the Home-Grown School Feeding approach, as it plays a crucial role in achieving the objectives outlined in the national development priorities and the Education Sector Plan.

The Home-Grown School Feeding program, in particular, promotes local food production, creating a market for locally produced food, thereby helping to reduce post-harvest losses, increasing the income of smallholder farmers, and contributing to the reduction in the level of food insecurity in the country during these challenging times of global crises. The Government of Liberia, therefore, supports the global effort to position school meals as a central, cross-cutting intervention that will contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.

The Government of Liberia joined the School Meals Coalition in 2021 as a demonstration of its commitment. Liberia has signed the School Meals Coalition and now wishes to provide the following update:

- The Government of Liberia shall collaborate with stakeholders, partners, and donors to identify sustainable, innovative funding sources, expand the school feeding program, and improve learning outcomes for children in Liberia.

 7/25/25

- The Government of Liberia shall collaborate with partners, donors, and stakeholders to expand school feeding initiatives to more schools and students across all 15 counties in Liberia.
- The Government of Liberia shall revise the national school feeding policy by 2026 to ensure the effective management of the school feeding program.
- The Government of Liberia shall enhance the efficiency and accountability of the school feeding program by implementing a digital data and reporting system for school meals. This system will track student enrollment, attendance, absenteeism, food delivery, and utilization, ensuring smooth management of the school feeding program.
- The Government of Liberia, in collaboration with line Ministries and partners, will continue to enhance the capacity of smallholder farmers to boost production and strengthen market linkages, providing more nutritious food to schools.
- The Government of Liberia shall collaborate with stakeholders and partners to expand the use of green technologies, specifically energy efficient stoves, in schools across all 15 counties. This initiative aims to provide clean energy solutions and promote safe food preparation.
- The Government of Liberia shall collaborate with partners and stakeholders to promote the creation of school gardens, provide healthy and diverse diets that will include dairy, and ensure the sustainability of the school meals program.
- The Government of Liberia shall promote staff participation in peer-to-peer activities with other countries, which will provide new experiences and knowledge for the staff to enhance their work and improve the school feeding program.
- The Government of Liberia shall commit to an annual allocation of funds in the national budget to support more schools and students across the 15 counties.
- The Government of Liberia shall work on the formulation of a standardized school feeding approach across the 15 counties.

Name: Dr. Jarso Maley Jallah

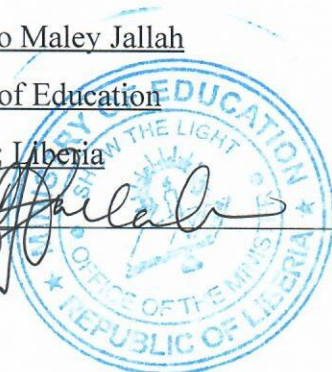
Title: Minister of Education

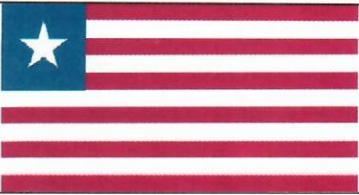
Country/Entity: Liberia

Signature: _____



Date: June 4, 2025



Liberia School Meals Coalition National Commitment	
Country:	Liberia
Country flag/emblem:	
Contact name	Hon. Sona T. Sesay
Contact information (email address)	Assistant Minister, Student Personnel Services Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia Ministerial Complex, Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa Phone No. +231 776722569 Email contact: ssesay@moe.gov.lr

The Government of Liberia expresses its strong support for school meal programs as a policy instrument to drive and strengthen human capital, social and economic growth, and sustainable food systems in the country. The Government is convinced that this program is a systemic solution that helps fight child hunger and poverty; supports child nutrition, learning, long-term well-being, and health equity; supports the strengthening of food systems and local economies; and promotes gender equality by keeping girls in school.

The Government of Liberia also believes that school meal programs are much more than simply providing food in school. They help to improve and diversify children's diets, teach children how to eat better, and support national and local markets and food systems by using locally grown food, thus improving opportunities for smallholder farmers, many led by women. The Government attaches great importance to the national school feeding program and its sustainability because it contributes significantly to achieving the objectives of the national development priorities as outlined in the government's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) as well as the Education Sector Plan.

The National School Feeding program, in particular, promotes local food production, creating a market for locally produced food, thereby helping to reduce post-harvest losses, increasing the income of smallholder farmers, and contributing to the reduction in the level of food insecurity in the country during these challenging times of global crises. The Government of Liberia, therefore, supports the global effort to position school meals as a central, cross-cutting intervention that will contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future. As a demonstration of this commitment, Liberia signed the School Meals Coalition Declaration in September 2021. As a proud member of the Coalition, we wish to announce the following commitments towards its goals:

 2/25/25

No.	Commitment	Category	Target	Deadline	Update
1	Establish a sustainable budget line for the school meal program in the national budget and increase the yearly allocation to USD 5 million in the next two years	Financial commitment	A budget line was created in the national budget for school feeding	30 March 2025	Budget allocation in excess of 1 million USD in the FY2025 national budget to support the national school feeding program.
2	Strengthening institutional arrangements for the National School Feeding, including strengthening multisectoral coordination	Policy commitments	A functional platform established for quarterly multisectoral coordination meetings on the National School Feeding Program and reviewing reports	30 September 2025	A platform for quarterly meetings with all partners and the Ministry for the school feeding program has been established. An engagement has begun with heads of line ministries for the establishment of the multisectoral coordination meeting on the National School Feeding Program and to establish a systemic body to review reports on the program.
3	Increase the coverage of the school meals program by 45 percent, from 1,241 schools to 1,623 schools	Program design and coverage commitment	Coverage of school feeding programs increased by 382 new schools	30 June 2029	During the beginning of 2025, about 245,467 students were fed in 1,387 schools in 13 out of 15 counties. In the middle of 2025, consideration for expansion began in 2 counties with specific targets in public primary schools.
4	Embed school meals into other relevant national, sectoral, or institutional policies, including the national development plans	Policy commitment	School meals incorporated in national development plans	30 September 2025	The School Feeding Program is a priority in the 2022-2027 operational plan. It has been embedded in the



					government's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID).
5	Revise the National School Feeding Policy	Policy Commitment	School Feeding Policy revised	31 December 2026	Some funds have been generated to begin the process of revising the School Feeding Policy. The process will be completed in 2026.
6	Develop guidelines for the integration of school health and nutrition into the school feeding program. Develop a Standardized School Feeding Program A clear workflow schedule from each department Performance appraisal system	Program design and coverage commitment	Nutrition guidelines for school meal programs developed	31 December 2026	Revising the School Feeding Policy is a priority and will be concluded in December 2026. Guidelines for health and nutrition will be included in the policy.

