



From Commitment to Impact: Government Progress on School Meals



Introduction

Governments around the world are taking meaningful steps to ensure every child receives a healthy, nutritious meal at school. Since the first Global Summit of the School Meals Coalition in Paris in October 2023, many countries have taken important steps, making school meals not just a policy choice, but a national priority. More and more, school meals are seen as essential for equity, strength, and human development.

Over the past four years, more than 80 million additional children have gained access to school meals. This rare success in the development space is led by governments around the world, as seen in this compilation of progress, and reflects the power of political leadership and collective action. There is increasingly strong evidence that domestic school meal programmes not only support children's well-being, but have far reaching benefits for small-holder farmers and local employment, as well as encouraging planet-friendly diets and reducing carbon emissions.

This document brings together voluntary progress reviews from 49 countries that are part of the School Meals Coalition. The information was shared directly by governments between May and August 2025, and highlights progress in areas such as policy, financing, institutional framework, programme design and coverage, evidence generation, advocacy and partnerships.

Some countries featured here have not yet submitted formal commitments to the Coalition, but have still made important strides. Their efforts reflect a growing global understanding: school meals help children learn and grow, support families, and strengthen local economies.

The Coalition now includes more than one hundred member countries, regional and subregional bodies. It stands as one of the most successful multilateral initiatives in recent years. This progress shows what is possible when countries work together toward a shared goal: a world where every child is nourished and every school is a place of opportunity.

This collection is more than a record of achievements. It is an invitation to keep building momentum, to learn from one another, and to continue working together to ensure every child has the chance to thrive.

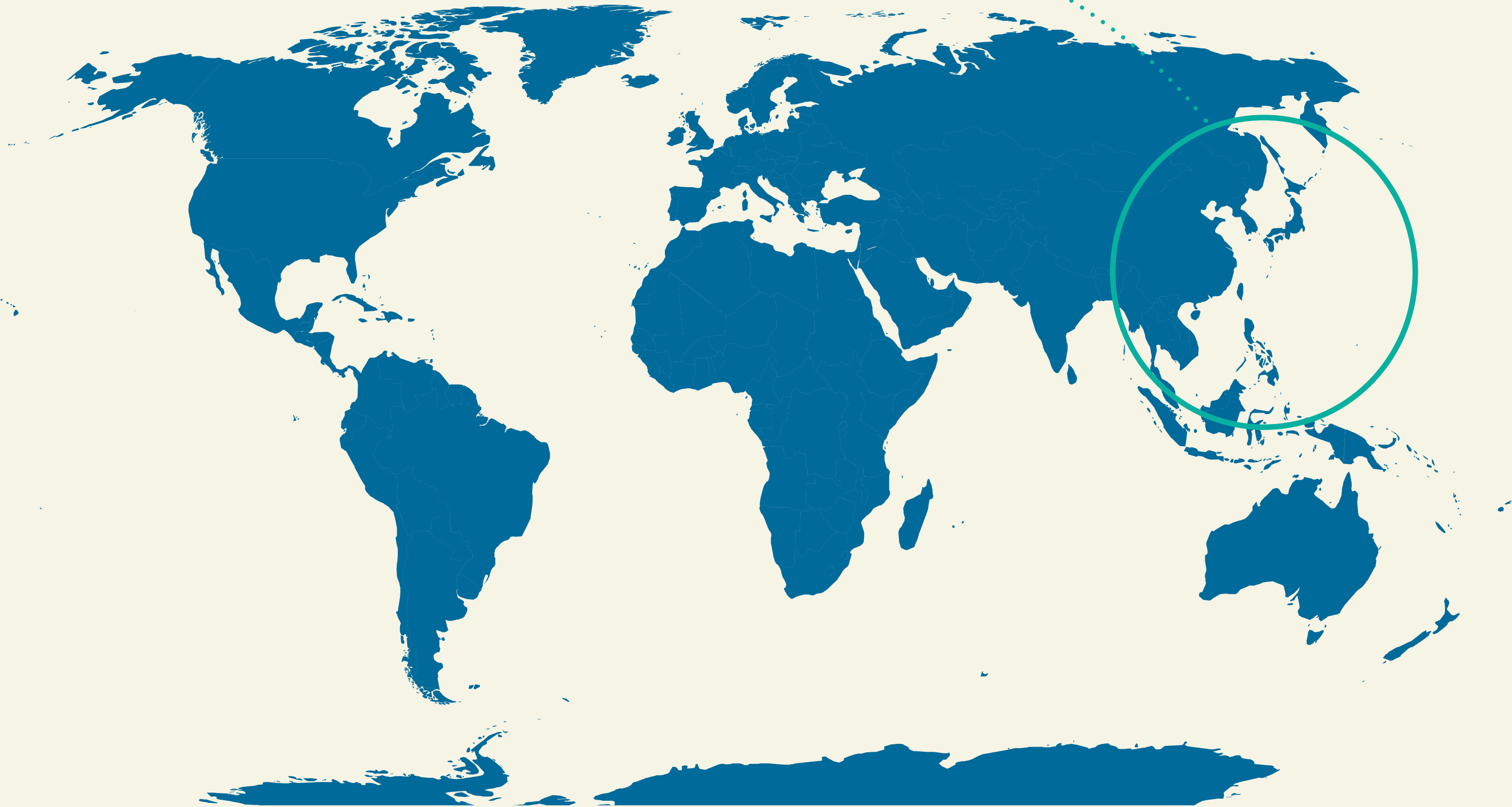
All information presented in this compilation was provided by national governments to the School Meals Coalition Secretariat between May and August 2025.

Check our new website at
schoolmealscoalition.org



East Asia and the Pacific

Cambodia, Japan, the Philippines



Cambodia

Cambodia joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in March 2022 around the following areas: Policy, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation.

Achievements

Cambodia has expanded ownership and investment in its Home-Grown School Feeding programme in areas with high poverty, undernutrition and poor education outcomes:

- In 2025, the government funded 686 schools (61% of the total), including an additional 259 since 2023. The national budget allocation increased from USD 4.3 million in 2023 to USD 7.4 million in 2025 and is projected to reach USD 9 million by 2026 and USD 14 million by 2028.
- The government endorsed a School Feeding Policy and established steering committees at the national and sub-national levels with representatives of key ministries and institutions to oversee implementation. The policy has been integrated into relevant sectoral policies and a School Feeding Policy Action Plan is expected to be endorsed in August 2025.
- Cambodia has optimized the design of its programme through evidence generation, including nutrition guidelines and standards. The redesigned procurement process, which promotes local sourcing and the integration of local cooperatives in supply chains, and the focus on the nutritional quality of meals contribute to healthy diets for students and local economic growth.
- Cambodia has integrated a holistic package to support human capital development of children and their communities, including health and nutrition education, nutrition-sensitive agriculture and training that builds local capacity and ownership.
- From 2023-2025, Cambodia rolled out a monitoring and evaluation framework to track implementation and outcomes through cross-sectoral indicators.
- Cambodia has engaged in regional and global platforms both as a provider and recipient of knowledge and experience. In November 2024, the country co-led with the Philippines the organization of the Southeast Asia School Meals Coalition Meeting, which served as a platform for peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practices.

Next steps

To strengthen the design and sustainability of the programme, Cambodia is prioritizing evidence generation and the exploration of diversified financing strategies. A Return on Investment study and Financing Strategy are underway with technical support from the Sustainable Financing Initiative and WFP.

A mid-term review of the M&E framework is planned in 2028. Additional priorities highlighted by the government include:

- Incentives and tailored support mechanisms such as training on procurement requirements or assistance in accessing credit, to support robust participation from local agriculture cooperatives in the school meals supply.
- Ensuring food safety, especially in rural areas.

Highlights

- In 2025, the government funded 686 schools (61% of the total), including an additional 259 since 2023. The national budget allocation increased from USD 4.3 million in 2023 to USD 7.4 million in 2025 and is projected to reach USD 9 million by 2026.
- Optimized the design of its programme through evidence generation.
- Co-led with the Philippines the organization of the Southeast Asia School Meals Coalition Meeting, which served as a platform for peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practices.

Japan

Japan joined the Coalition in January 2022 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 2022. Japan provided commitments in the following areas: Financing, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Japan has shared insights on the institutional design, operational management and food and nutrition education (Shokuiku) aspects of its school meal programme based on the interest of partner countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia and Paraguay, and with partners such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) through a published case study.

The government has provided bilateral assistance to support capacity building and human resource development for school meals in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Paraguay, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Kenya, Cameroon and Senegal. In addition, it has advised and supported WFP programmes in Kenya, Cameroon, the Philippines, Haiti and, through a supplementary budget in 2024 and 2025, those in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jordan, Myanmar, Niger, Rwanda and Somalia.

Japan supports the global agenda on school meals through advocating for their importance at global forums, including the Global Health and Nutrition Forum that took place in Japan in December 2024 and the 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit.

At the national level, the government emphasizes the importance of nutritionally balanced school meals and promotes the use of local products and Shokuiku (Food and Nutrition Education). It also provides teaching guidance to ensure the implementation of learning related to Shokuiku.

Highlights

- Emphasizes nutritionally balanced school meals, promotes the use of local products and Shokuiku (Food and Nutrition Education), and shares institutional, operational, and pedagogical insights, including teaching guidance, to support partner countries in implementing effective school meals models.
- Advanced WFP school meals initiatives globally by supporting nutrition recovery post-COVID-19, promoting home-grown school meals in Kenya and Cameroon, enhancing enrollment and nutrition in the Philippines and Haiti, and advocating Japan's school lunch model and nutrition education at global forums and through multilingual materials.

Philippines

The Philippines joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education in September 2021 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage.

Achievements

The Philippines has scaled up provision of school meals by demonstrating a multisectoral approach through policy, innovation, and partnerships that strengthen local economies.

The government has expanded its School-Based Feeding Program. Starting in 2025, all primary school students will receive meals for 175 days, while all kindergarten learners will receive meals and milk for 120 days. This expansion covers all children, regardless of their nutritional status, increasing the number of beneficiaries to 3.3 million learners. The current budget of USD 207 million (PHP 11.7 billion) represents a 254% increase from the 2022 budget of USD 58 million (PHP 3.3 billion).

The programme has provided Iron-Fortified Rice at a large scale in partnership with small and medium enterprises certified by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute – a total of 213 million kilograms of rice worth USD 25 million (PHP 1.4 billion) in three years.

The Philippines has also initiated the implementation of Home Grown School Feeding in partnership with WFP, carrying out local procurement with five local agricultural cooperatives in Cauayan, Isabela, and subsequently expanding to two more rural and urban sites to generate evidence for potential scale-up to foster local economic development.

The government views its approach to school meals through the convergence of nutrition, education and agriculture and it pushes for a holistic approach through the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program and the Integrated School Nutrition Model, with 275 lighthouse/model schools that integrate feeding, nutrition education, and gardening, aiming to preserve indigenous crops through seed exchanges and peer learning. The institutionalization of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools Program also ensures deworming of learners and sanitation and hygiene beyond food preparation.

Policy support for school meals is also being strengthened through regulation of the sale and marketing of food items according to their sugar, sodium and saturated fat content and training Food Safety Compliance Officers to ensure a healthy school food environment.

The central kitchen system is also being revitalized through capacity development activities, refurbishment and activations such as the “Oplan Kaalaman,” a nutrition education program, and Nutrition Month activities.

Next steps

Despite infrastructure and resource constraints, the government remains committed to improving coverage, strengthening local procurement, and scaling best practices, with the goal of achieving universal coverage to promote every Filipino child’s well-being by protecting them from hunger and malnutrition.

Highlights

- In 2025, The Philippines will serve meals and milk to a total of 3.3 million learners, including all kindergarten learners and undernourished learners in grades 1 to 6.
- The current budget of USD 207 million (PHP 11.7 billion) represents a 254% increase from the 2022 budget.
- The Philippines has also initiated Home Grown School Feeding, carrying out local procurement with five local agricultural cooperatives in Cauayan, Isabela and expanding to two more rural and urban sites to generate evidence for potential scale-up.

Europe and Central Asia

Armenia, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Slovenia,
Sweden, Tajikistan, Ukraine



Armenia

Armenia joined the Coalition in December 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport in September 2023 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, and Evidence and data generation.

Achievements

Armenia is working toward making school meals universally available through:

- Expansion of coverage throughout its capital Yerevan by 2030, through four different models to accommodate varying school conditions.
- A pilot programme to be launched in September 2025, targeting students grades 5-9 with affordable, co-financed healthy meals based on cooperation among parents, schools and communities.

Since 2025, the Government has provided budgetary funding for the National School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency (NSFCWA), which is now mandated to coordinate and manage the programme. School meals have also been integrated as a mandatory budgetary line.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the NSFCWA has revised national nutrition standards in schools and kindergartens, aligning them with scientific and internationally accepted standards, and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport rolled out a national educational school health and nutrition curriculum starting in January 2024. In parallel, the country is advancing agricultural literacy through extracurricular clubs.

Armenia is strengthening international cooperation through participation in global events and bilateral initiatives and is supporting training and exchange at the local level for school cooks, principals and other stakeholders.

Next steps

Armenia is preparing a national case study on its programme, with the Research Consortium on School Health and Nutrition.

The Government, in coordination with WFP, will pilot the school feeding programme in Yerevan starting in September 2025, while also continuing infrastructure upgrades in over 300 schools and 500 kindergartens and improving programme implementation through a new digital management system.

Highlights

- Working toward making school meals universally available through expansion of coverage throughout its capital Yerevan by 2030, through four different models to accommodate varying school conditions.
- Has revised national nutrition standards in schools, aligning them with scientific and internationally accepted standards, and introduced a national school health and nutrition curriculum in 2024.
- Since 2023, the government has taken full responsibility for funding the school meals programme in 10 regions. As of 2025, school meals are integrated as a mandatory budgetary line.

Finland

Finland is a founding co-chair and champion of the Coalition, joining in July 2021 and submitting its [commitment](#) through the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Development in September 2021. The commitment was updated in July 2025. Finland provided commitments in the following areas: Financing, Programme design and coverage, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

In Finland, school meals are an integral part of the school day and are closely linked to food education and pedagogical guidance. They support learning about health, sustainability, and social skills, and are reinforced through home economics education where students gain practical food skills and an understanding of nutrition.

Finland continues to implement school meals procurement criteria that include environmentally friendly methods for food products, food safety, nutrition, and animal welfare and health aspects. It also works to increase food education and to involve students in the planning, implementation, and assessment of school meals.

Given its decades of experience in providing universal free and nutritious meals to students, Finland provides technical support to other countries on nutrition planning, policy development, implementation and the educational role of school meals. Resources can be found on the Education Finland [website](#).

Finland provides support to WFP's school meal programmes (in 2023, Lebanon; in 2024, Burundi, Kenya, Liberia, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen and Zambia; in 2025 Burkina Faso, Chad, Mozambique and South Sudan).

Finland co-leads the Coalition's Task Force and Working Group and has participated actively in the Coalition's high-level meetings and events, and more broadly in high-level advocacy for school meals since the Coalition was launched. It also provides support to the Coalition Secretariat.

Highlights

- Universal free and nutritious school meals are an integral part of the school day and closely linked to food education and pedagogical guidance – supporting learning about health, sustainability, and social skills.
- Provides technical support to partner countries to share Finland's experience on nutrition planning, policy development, implementation and the educational role of school meals.
- Co-chairs the Coalition's Task Force and Working Group and financially supports both the Coalition's Secretariat and WFP programmes across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

France

France is a founding co-chair and champion of the Coalition, joining in July 2021 and submitting its [commitment](#) through the President of the Republic in September 2021 around the following areas: Financing, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

France has maintained strong regulatory standards for school meals since 2011, including mandatory frequencies for fruits, vegetables, proteins, and limits on fats and sugars. These standards are currently being updated to include legumes and whole grains, with a revised framework expected in late 2025.

In 2023, 94% of school canteens complied with the requirement to offer at least one vegetarian meal per week. Additionally, 30% of school food was classified as sustainable and high-quality, including 17% organic products.

To improve access, the government subsidises school meals to enable proportional pricing based on the parents' income level. Additionally the "€1 canteen" initiative supports rural municipalities in offering low-cost meals for eligible households. As of 2024, over 2,400 municipalities benefit from this programme, with additional incentives for those sourcing sustainable food.

France actively contributes to global knowledge and cooperation through its research institutions (INRAE, IRD, CIRAD), which are key members of the Coalition's Research Consortium. France also supports the "Cities Feeding the Future" Initiative, now with over 300 members.

At the School Meals Coalition Taskforce meeting in Nairobi in 2024, France launched a tripartite cooperation with Brazil and the WFP Centre of Excellence to support school feeding in Benin and Senegal.

Financially, France has provided funding to school meals programmes globally since 2021, including through the French Initiative for Food Security and Nutrition (IFSAN), a grant mechanism of which 50% is earmarked for projects on children nutrition.

Highlights

- Maintains strong national standards for school meal nutrition and is updating them to include legumes and whole grains.
- Supports over 2,400 rural municipalities through the "€1 canteen" programme to ensure access to affordable, quality meals.
- Co-chairs the Coalition and has invested in global school meals since 2021, driving international cooperation through research, technical expertise, and partnerships in countries such as in Benin and Senegal.

Germany

Germany joined the Coalition in July 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity in September 2021 around the following areas: Financing, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

The government, through efforts of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH), is committed to promoting a balanced and sustainable diet for children and young people at the national level.

To ensure health-promoting and sustainable school meals, the German Nutrition Society has developed quality standards that provide guidance for schools, school boards and caterers and that engage local communities and strengthen local capacity based on lessons learned through the Coalition.

Germany has also been supporting the development of scientifically sound global nutrition guidelines and standards for school food at the international level in close cooperation with partner countries like Ghana and Cambodia. Those standards are to be incorporated into work of the Research Consortium on School Health and Nutrition, an initiative of the School Meals Coalition.

Germany also provides financial support through the UN for school meals and related programmes such as food systems, WASH, health, and education, to ample countries such as South Sudan (2024-2026); Democratic Republic of Congo (2024-2028); Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Mauritania (2023-2027); Somalia (2023-2026); Darfur (2021-2026); Central African Republic (2023-2027); Yemen (2023-2025); and Sierra Leone and Laos (2023-2028). In the Philippines, Germany is supporting the reform of the Philippine school-based feeding program, enhancing its interlinkage with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) aspects in schools.

Germany has provided continuous support and high-level advocacy to support goals of the Coalition, including at COP28, the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking +2 and +4 and through the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. Germany also provides financial support for the Coalition's Secretariat, its Sustainable Financing Initiative and the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition. Germany will strongly support the newly planned initiative on accelerating home-grown school meals programs. With this, the country further expands its strong advocacy for school meals, joining forces with partners from philanthropy and private sector.

Highlights

- Drives global momentum through strategic investments in the School Meals Coalition and large-scale resilience programmes that integrate school meals with broader development goals.
- Provides financial support for research and programmes in partner countries that deliver nutritious, locally sourced meals in crisis settings, linked with school health, nutrition, and social protection.
- Promotes balanced, sustainable school meals and supports the development of quality standards both nationally and internationally.
- Champions global advocacy for school meals and supports the Coalition Secretariat, Research Consortium and Sustainable Financing Initiative.

Luxembourg



Luxembourg joined the Coalition in October 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth in October 2023 around the following areas: Financing, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

- At the national level, Luxembourg has:
- Worked with Restopolis, responsible for catering in secondary schools and at the University of Luxembourg, to procure 71% of products from local sources. 26% were certified organic. Restopolis has also reworked its menus, particularly its vegetarian and vegan offerings.
 - Distributed free meals in Restopolis canteens (222,000 in September-December 2024 and roughly the same number during the same period in 2023).
 - Developed a digital purchasing platform, Supply4Future, to process purchases and connect with local farmers and suppliers, expanding the purchase of sustainable products.
 - Taken steps to combat food waste and plastic pollution in schools, including distribution of unsold meals and products to members of the school community for free at the end of the school day.
 - Held activities like “Meet the Producers” to familiarize students with local producers and promote more sustainable catering concepts.
 - Promoted exchanges and awareness campaigns with producer associations to integrate student feedback, attract additional suppliers to the digital purchasing platform, and better address specific dietary needs.

- At the international level, Luxembourg supports school meal programmes as an instrument to improve children’s nutrition, health and education access.
- Nearly 190,000 students in Burkina Faso benefited from school meals and nutrition education (2022-2023), while Luxembourg advances school feeding and girls’ education in Niger’s fragile regions.
 - The government supports school meal programmes across different contexts, including long-term efforts in Senegal, targeted initiatives in Mali, and partnerships with WFP in Benin and Ethiopia.
 - In collaboration with the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, WFP, and the School Meals Coalition, Luxembourg highlights the importance of school meals as a tool for peacebuilding, social protection and educational development.
 - Luxembourg promotes innovation in food security through tools like catastrophe bonds and AI to help achieve Zero Hunger and improve humanitarian response.
 - Luxembourg amplifies school meals advocacy within the EU, through its engagement with the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and through peer-to-peer activity in the Coalition.

Next steps

- Luxembourg identifies the following goals regarding its national/international efforts:
- Increasing the number of producers, including small- and medium-enterprises, to supply products through the digital purchasing platform.
 - Incentivizing local producers to grow more products locally to offset those currently not available in necessary quantities.
 - Promoting innovation and emerging technologies in food security to help achieve zero Hunger.

Highlights

- Promotes local procurement through the digital platform Supply4Future, connecting schools with local farmers.
- Combats food waste and plastic pollution in schools, integrating student feedback through producer associations.
- Supports school meal programmes in partner countries to improve nutrition, health and education access.
- Collaborates with the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, WFP and the School Meals Coalition to highlight school meals as tools for social protection and peacebuilding.
- Promotes innovation in food security using catastrophe bonds and AI to help achieve Zero Hunger.

Slovenia



Slovenia joined the School Meals Coalition in October 2024 and submitted its [commitments](#) through the Ministry of Foreign & European Affairs in May 2025 around the following areas: Financing, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

- Slovenia is improving school nutrition through the implementation of two key projects: by training school staff on sustainable nutrition and through regional workshops for chefs and catering managers. The “Cooking Kids” initiative has been recognized by the European Commission as a best practice in promoting a healthy and sustainable lifestyle in relation to food.
- The country continues to implement the EU School Scheme, reaching 90% of primary schools with additional meals and food education. Slovenia promotes short supply chains, local food procurement, and environmental sustainability through public campaigns, quality labels, and digital platforms.

Slovenia fosters early education on healthy eating through preschool programmes and national campaigns like the “Traditional Slovenian Breakfast.” Intersectoral collaboration is strong, with coordinated efforts across ministries, institutions and farmers/ producers.

Internationally, Slovenia supports school meals through humanitarian aid and development projects with WFP as their leading partner. In 2024 Slovenia financed the construction of a primary school in Madagascar and provided meals for over 5,300 pupils over the course of 3 months. Slovenia advocates for school meals in global forums and plans to add a new commitment on food waste reduction.

Next steps

- Slovenia identifies the following goals regarding its national effort:
- Strengthen efforts to reduce food waste in schools, aligned with the national strategy “Respect Food, Respect the Planet” and its 57-point action plan.
 - Scale up infrastructure for school gardens, especially in environmentally affected municipalities, to support hands-on food education and local food production.
 - Expand training and capacity-building efforts for school staff, chefs, and catering managers to ensure sustainable nutrition practices.

Highlights

- Promotes organic, seasonal, and locally sourced foods in school meals through national programmes and regional workshops.
- Emphasizes education on sustainable food production and healthy nutrition.
- 90% of primary schools participate in the EU School Scheme, benefiting 183,000 students.
- A national strategy and action plan aims to halve food waste per capita by 2030.
- Prioritizes global food security in its foreign policy, including through humanitarian and development efforts such as supporting school meals for over 5,300 pupils in Madagascar.

Sweden

Sweden joined the Coalition in July 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure in July 2025 around the following areas: Financing, Programme design and coverage, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Sweden's 290 municipalities are obliged to serve free and nutritious school meals to all students in primary school according to the Education Act. Budgetary responsibilities lie at the local level.

New National Guidelines for School Meals were developed by the Swedish National Food Agency during 2023-2025, emphasizing the role of school meals for health, learning, the environment and social community. The Guidelines contain goals and indicators that can be used at both national and local levels, anchored in the "Meal Model" framework with six elements: good, nutritious, safe, enjoyable, environmentally smart and integrated as a central part of school.

The Swedish Food Agency also collects data to track developments across municipalities, including on quality and topics such as food waste. It operates in networks with other national actors to collaborate and strengthen knowledge exchange between municipalities, government agencies and other organizations.

New research has been completed in recent years on the educational and social impact of school lunches. In addition, experiences and lessons learned from the long-term project, "A New Recipe for School Meals," coordinated by the Swedish Food Agency, have been summarized in a published report that identified the following success factors:

- student involvement and integration which strengthens understanding of the connection between food, health and sustainability;
- collaboration, leadership support and communication to ensure school meals are accepted by the students, parents and wider community;
- integration of innovation and local food systems contributing to more sustainable, accepted meals that support local food chains with a reduced climate footprint.

This project has also led to schools and municipalities introducing improved meals and opportunities for increased student involvement in line with good examples shared.

Sweden participates in international networks for the exchange of knowledge about school meals and a case study on Sweden's school lunch program is being finalized with the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition. The government contributes data and reports to European and international initiatives, such as the Global Child Nutrition Foundation, and school meals are highlighted as an important part of Sweden's work on sustainable food systems and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Highlights

- School meals are a statutory right in Sweden, fully financed by municipalities, with national support through guidelines and knowledge-sharing networks.
- Sweden invests in innovation and sustainability through research, student engagement, and integration of local food systems, contributing to reduced climate impact.
- The government contributes data and expertise to international initiatives and Swedish researchers and experts are finalizing a case study for the Coalition showcasing its school meal model and best practice.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan joined the Coalition in April 2023 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education and Science in July 2023 around the following areas: Programme design and coverage.

Achievements

Ensuring food security and access to high-quality food, particularly by promoting nutrition for children through school meals, is one of three strategic priorities outlined in the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan through 2030. The government has adopted a six-year State Programme for the Development of School Meals (2022-2027) to increase school meals coverage to 50%, upgrade infrastructure and establish sustainable markets for agricultural products by connecting local producers to schools. This outlines a phased handover from a WFP-funded programme to one that is nationally funded and government-owned. To date, USD 4.5 million (44 million TJS) has been allocated by the government and 94 schools have shifted to government funding (70% previously supported by WFP).

In support of the effort, the government has:

- Established an intersectional coordination council to engage relevant ministries.
- Prioritized the upgrade of school kitchens and canteens, with new standards mandating that schools undergoing construction or renovation include facilities for food preparation and dining. In 2024, approximately 130 were constructed or renovated.
- Trained school administrators and government focal points. Regulatory and operational documents, including monitoring tools, have been developed and endorsed.
- Improved the school meal data management systems.
- Approved new staffing structures for school canteens, including cooks and nutritionists.
- Collaborated across sectors to ensure students' access to healthy food and conduct nutrition education activities.
- Promoted the procurement of food from local farmers, contributing to the development of local agricultural markets.
- Worked with schools to pilot income-generating activities that aim to diversify meals, produce complementary foods and generate additional resources – such as orchards, greenhouses, and beekeeping.

Next steps

The government plans to develop the next five-year State Programme for School Feeding Development, to include an implementation strategy, budget, monitoring and evaluation framework and roadmap for fully transitioning to national funding beyond 2027. On 20-22 November 2025 Tajikistan will the second international School Feeding Forum of the CIS countries to share best practices in school meal implementation.

Additional priorities highlighted by the government include:

- Improved infrastructure; only 53.4% of schools currently have functional kitchens or canteens and only 22% have school gardens.
- Capacity building of government stakeholders, local authorities and schools to improve implementation.
- Promoting healthy eating habits and improving dietary culture, as well as enhanced research, improved nutrition tracking, and regular assessments of the health of primary school students.

Highlights

- Adoption of six-year State Programme for the Development of School Meals (2022-2027) to increase school meals coverage to 50%, upgrade infrastructure and establish sustainable markets for agricultural products.
- Phased handover from WFP-funded programme to one that is nationally funded and government-owned. USD 4.5 million allocated (44 million TJS), allowing 94 schools to shift to government funding.
- Promoting the procurement of food from local farmers and piloting income-generating activities such as orchards, greenhouses, and beekeeping.
- 2nd International School Feeding Forum of the CIS countries will be held in Tajikistan on 20-22 November 2025.

Ukraine

Ukraine joined the Coalition in November 2023 and officially declared the [commitment](#) announced by the Prime Minister in the following areas: institutional framework, program development and scaling, and obtaining and using data and evidence.

Achievements

Despite the challenges caused by the full-scale war, Ukraine prioritized the development of the school nutrition system and continued to actively participate in the work of the Coalition.

Through the initiative of the President and supported by the government, a program of free meals was implemented for all pupils in grades 1-4 in October 2024, and 1.5 million primary school pupils are currently receiving meals. Government funding was USD 48.5 million (UAH 2 billion) in 2024 and USD 67.7 million (UAH 2.8 billion) for the January-May period in 2025.

To improve the quality of nutrition in school meals, 6,474 cooks underwent advanced training in 2023 and 2024, and 23 “culinary hubs” are being formed. In addition, a communication campaign on healthy eating was initiated under the initiative of the First Lady Olena Zelenska in 2021.

These developments are part of the School Nutrition Reform Strategy for 2023-2027, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, that established priorities and guidance for communities. Its implementation is coordinated by the School Nutrition Reform Team, that combines efforts of central executive bodies, communities, regional state administrations and international partners. The Strategy’s objectives include:

- Increasing the financial and institutional capacity of communities.
- Modernizing the infrastructure of food blocks.
- Increasing human resource capacity.
- Fostering a culture of healthy eating.

The government participated in a Research Consortium case study and organized the first European Regional School Meals Summit in Kyiv in November 2024, which brought together over 500 participants including representatives from over 20 countries, civil society organizations, and local governments. Ukraine also presented at the 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit.

Next steps

Ukraine welcomes support to be able to expand the number of students who receive school meals; modernize infrastructure; further develop human resources potential; foster a culture of healthy eating at all levels; and support operational activities of the School Nutrition Reform Team.

Highlights

- Despite the challenges caused by the full-scale war, prioritized school meals and active engagement with the Coalition.
- Organized the first European Regional School Meals Summit of the School Meals Coalition in Kyiv in November 2024.
- Through an initiative of the President, free meals introduced for all students in grades 1-4 in October 2024. 1.5 million primary school students currently receiving meals.
- School Nutrition Reform Strategy for 2023-2027 is strengthening local capacity, infrastructure, and human resources and promoting healthy eating.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras



Brazil

Brazil joined the School Meals Coalition in 2022 and became co-chair at Presidential level in 2023. Brazil's [commitments](#) cover the following areas: Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Brazil became a Coalition Co-Chair in late 2023 and has advanced all areas of its commitment, as demonstrated by the following:

- *Food and Nutrition Education:* Brazil developed the project, “Alimentação Escolar Nota 10,” to improve the quality of school meals, promote healthy eating habits, offer training for nutritionists and school cooks, and support family farming. Moreover, FNDE issued guidelines for the integration of food and nutrition education in the curricula of public schools and is updating materials to guide capacity development for school cooks.
- *Participation of family farmers, including Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities:* the project “Amazon in Schools: Healthy and Sustainable Food” is being implemented across ministries and with partners like the Brazilian Development Bank, promoting procurement from family farmers in the Legal Amazon region. Legislation ensures that 50% of purchases from rural family units come from women, ensuring women's income opportunities and participation.
- *Avoiding food loss and waste:* efforts include training, infrastructure and food management improvements and support for sustainable practices such as composting. New partnerships are being developed with local stakeholders and universities to explore links between school meals and climate change.
- *Highlighting the value of fresh and minimally processed foods:* the reality show, “Vida de Merendeira,” recognizes school cooks who contribute to healthy eating. New national guidelines that reduce the purchase of processed and ultra-processed foods and increase the minimum share of fresh and minimally processed foods have been implemented.
- *Promoting school meals policies worldwide and exchange of best practices:* Brazil has participated extensively in global and regional initiatives. It included the Brazilian school feeding model in the policy basket of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, a curated set of evidence-based policy options that can be adapted and implemented by other countries, and it supports the Sustainable School Meals Network (RAES), a platform for regional action in Latin America and the Caribbean. Brazil also supports South-South cooperation with partners in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

Next steps

Brazil welcomes collaboration to address sustainability aspects of the program, including climate mitigation and adaptation efforts and fair and sustainable food systems transformation, and in areas like capacity development for stakeholders, infrastructure investments, and partnerships to co-develop robust impact studies. It is seeking ways to reduce regional disparities across diverse local socioeconomic contexts and ensure consistent implementation of the programme's legal framework.

Highlights

- Serves 50 million daily meals to 39 million students across 145,000 schools in 5,570 municipalities, 26 states and the Federal District.
- Promotes participation of family farmers and ensures equal priority to formal and informal groups of women family farmers, alongside other priority groups such as agrarian reform settlers, indigenous peoples, and quilombolas communities.
- Extensive participation in global and regional initiatives including the Sustainable School Meals Network and hosting of the Coalition's Second Global Summit.

Cuba

Cuba joined the Coalition in May 2022 and submitted its [commitment](#) in March 2025 through the Ministry of Education around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Cuba has maintained coverage of its School Feeding Programme despite economic challenges, with funding included in the national budget. The programme reaches 4,417 educational institutions across the country, benefiting over 849,274 students, which represents 58.2% of total enrollment in the general education system, with a strong presence in early childhood and primary education.

Food and Nutrition Education is integrated into the national curriculum and was updated in 2023 to promote healthy and sustainable food choices. Complementary activities include 4,932 interest circles and 815 scientific societies, involving students at all educational levels. It is also part of ongoing professional development for education staff, with 99,637 schoolteachers and school administrators trained to date.

School gardens are widely implemented, with 100% of schools with cultivable land participating. These gardens supply up to 6% of the programme's needs for fruits, vegetables, and condiments. Local procurement is prioritized, and all participating schools contract with local producers.

Collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health ensures food safety, hygiene, and health education, including vaccination campaigns in schools. Multi-year projects supported by partners such as WFP are strengthening infrastructure, building local capacity, and improving food quality and safety in selected municipalities.

Cuba has also participated in exchange activities that support knowledge sharing with the Center of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil and the Dominican Republic and South Korea.

Next steps

Cuba seeks support to improve school meal quality, expand infrastructure, and optimize the use of school-owned arable land. Additional donor funding and technical assistance are needed to address challenges such as food procurement constraints, climate impacts on agriculture, and infrastructure upgrades. The country also aims to deepen its participation in international technical and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

Highlights

- The programme reaches 4,417 educational institutions, benefiting over 849,274 students, or 58.2% of total enrollment in the general education system.
- Food and nutrition education is part of the educational goals, equipping students with knowledge and skills to identify healthy and sustainable food choices.
- School gardens are active in all schools with cultivable land, contributing up to 6% of the programme's fresh food needs, and formal contracts with local producers ensure strong community links.

Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic joined the Coalition and submitted its [commitment](#) in September 2021 through the Institute of Student Welfare in the Ministry of Education. The commitment was updated in May 2025. The Dominican Republic submitted commitments around the following areas: Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation.

Achievements

A research project was conducted in 2021-2022 on the nutritional status of children receiving school feeding, and a training programme was developed for teachers and technical staff on food and nutrition in schools in 2023.

To promote intersectoral coordination and provide comprehensive care for students, a School Health Programme is being developed in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health, the National Health Service and the Ministry of Education. An agreement will be signed between the National Institute for Student Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture to support the purchase of products from family farmers.

The School Feeding Programme now provides an average of 60% of the Daily Dietary Requirements. The number of new beneficiaries under the Extended School Day modality rose from 54,145 to 113,681 between the 2022–2023 and 2023–2024 school years.

In 2021, all school menu recipes were standardized, and saturated fats and sodium content were reduced. In 2022, fruit nectar was removed from school snacks (which contributed an average of 23 grams of sugar daily), and fresh fruits were introduced universally in the Extended School Day modality in 2024.

Nutritional evaluations of schoolchildren benefiting from the programme are routinely scheduled, with annual increases in the number of students evaluated from 2022-2024.

Nutrition and Food Education activities expanded their reach from 97,743 to 206,273 beneficiaries during 2022-2024 following programme strengthening and the easing of pandemic-related restrictions. A national campaign, “Give Yourself Life, Eat Healthy!” was launched in 2024 to reduce high obesity rates by promoting fruit and vegetable consumption and reducing intake of foods high in sugar, fat and sodium.

Dominican Republic also aims to establish a legislative framework that guarantees school feeding and nutrition as a national policy. In support of this goal, a draft “Law on School Feeding and Nutrition” was submitted to the National Congress in 2023 and is under review by both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

Highlights

- Collaboration across ministries to stimulate purchase of products from family farmers.
- Programme provides an average of 60% of Daily Dietary Requirements for schoolchildren.
- The number of new beneficiaries under the Extended School Day modality rose from 54,145 in 2022-2023 to 113,681 in 2023-2024.
- School menu recipes standardized in 2021 and quality improved to eliminate unhealthy content and integrate healthy foods like fresh fruit.
- Nutritional evaluations of schoolchildren benefiting from the programme increased each year from 2022-2024.

Ecuador

Ecuador joined the Coalition in November 2021.

Achievements

Ecuador’s school meals programme provides daily rations to students from early childhood through secondary school. The programme is a state policy aimed at improving the nutritional status of children and adolescents, covering approximately 15% of their daily nutritional needs. In 2025, the programme reached over 2.7 million students across 12,731 schools, delivering nearly 224 million rations. Procurement is carried out through a national reverse auction system, with at least 35% of funds allocated to local and small-scale producers, including those from the social and solidarity economy and family farming.

In June 2024, Ecuador launched a decentralized school meals pilot programme in partnership with WFP to deliver fresh and healthy meals in 14 schools across the Coastal and Highland regions, reaching approximately 20,000 children and adolescents since 2024. Supported by a state investment of USD 2.5 million, the programme has strengthened local food systems by engaging 321 producers and 7 associations, delivering 936 tons of food annually, and training 263 members of the educational community in nutrition and hygiene. Implemented in collaboration with partners, the model reflects Ecuador’s commitment to inclusive, community-based school meals.

Next steps

- Ecuador aims to expand the school meals model. The country seeks support to:
- Secure sustainable and multi-year funding for the delivery of fresh and healthy school meals.
 - Strengthen logistics, infrastructure, and training for programme staff.
 - Develop monitoring and evaluation systems and define clear performance indicators to support long-term planning and impact assessment.
 - The partnership model with WFP and the Ministry of Education could be institutionalized through formal agreements, standardized protocols, and a legal-operational framework, allowing gradual expansion to 320,000 beneficiaries across 1,524 schools over the next four years.
 - Additionally, a study with the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) is evaluating the feasibility of an investment project to increase the number of beneficiaries in this school meal program.

Highlights

- Reaching over 2.7 million students across over 12,700 schools through its national school meals programme.
- Allocating at least 35% of purchases to local and small-scale producers, from family farming.
- Launched a decentralized school meals pilot with WFP to deliver fresh, healthy school meals and strengthen local food systems.

Guatemala

Guatemala joined the Coalition and submitted its [commitment](#) in September 2021 through the Ministry of Education around the following areas: Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Guatemala has expanded its school meals programme to reach 3.2 million children across all education levels, ranging from early childhood to high school. In 2024, 41% of schools implemented meals prepared and served on-site, while others used ration-based models developed during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure continued support. These models, designed by nutritionists and based on national nutritional criteria, helped maintain access to healthy food. The programme continues to build on these efforts, with growing emphasis on restoring hot, nutritious meals shown to positively impact student health and learning.

The country developed context-specific menus for all 22 departments, with 279 local and 10 national menu options (for preprimary and primary levels) designed by nutritionists and validated in schools. Guatemala has also strengthened interinstitutional coordination and updated its legal and regulatory frameworks, including the School Feeding Regulation.

Guatemala has increased its national investment in school meals, supported by an innovative tax-based financing mechanism. The programme prioritizes local procurement, with a target of sourcing up to 70% of food from family farming, contributing to rural development and food system resilience. Reflecting this commitment, the national budget for school meals has grown significantly, from USD 73 million in 2015 to USD 427 million projected by 2025.

Guatemala actively shares its experience through regional and international platforms and hosted delegations such as Belize to showcase its programme. In 2024–2025, over 5,700 schools received support for kitchen upgrades, and procurement of cooking utensils is underway.

Next steps

Guatemala is working to:

- Expand on-site meal preparation to all schools.
- Meet the 70% local procurement target from family farming.
- Improve school garden implementation.

Support is needed in:

- Infrastructure and equipment for food preparation.
- Peer learning on school meals and garden models.
- Implementation of water banks.

Highlights

- Reached 3.2 million children with school meals across all education levels.
- Developed 289 validated menus, for preprimary and primary levels, tailored to local diets across 22 departments.
- Supported more than 5,700 schools with kitchen upgrades and equipment procurement is underway.
- The menus and rations are designed in accordance with the legal requirement that 70% of the food be sourced from local family farming.

Honduras

Honduras joined the Coalition in July 2021 and submitted its commitment in April 2023 through the Secretary of State in the Office of Social Development around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

The government has worked to progressively increase funding for the National School Feeding Program, with an increase of USD 3.4 million (HNL 90 million) in 2025 to allow it to meet evolving needs and remain one of the countries in Latin America with full coverage – reflecting an expansion from 80% in 2020 to 100% in 2022-2023.

The programme has reached more than 1.3 million students in 21,000 public schools with nutritious rations, of which more than 90% are locally sourced, supporting producers and rural economies. It is anchored in inter-sectoral coordination that integrates nutrition, health and education and focuses on equity and respect for indigenous populations. It relies on a consolidated model supported by more than 20,000 volunteer parents in School Feeding Committees that have strengthened local ownership, transparency, and accountability.

The government has actively supported school meals policy and is working to update the School Feeding Law that defines roles and responsibilities of entities to ensure a nutritious snack for more than 1 million students in vulnerable areas.

An Inter-Institutional Technical Committee on School Feeding ensures articulation of policies, monitoring and accountability and capacity development protocols have been formalized for stakeholders, including around monitoring, nutritional security, and oversight. These developments will transform the programme into a comprehensive public policy that will strengthen its viability over time.

In addition to its original commitments, the government has supported the following steps that have contributed to strengthening the programme:

- participatory design of the school feeding policy that advances the consolidation of the programme as a state policy with a rights-based approach, intersectionality, and sustainability.
- implementation of low-cost innovations, such as food diversification and strengthening of local supply chains.
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation to improve evidence-based decision-making.

Next steps

The government welcomes support in the following areas: technical assistance for effective implementation of the Public Policy on School Feeding and its integration with other related policies; exploration of new financing vehicles and public-private partnerships; cooperation for decentralized capacity building with a focus on sustainability and quality; investment in resilient infrastructure; and technical innovation to strengthen information and monitoring of the programme.

Highlights

- Reaching more than 1.3 million students in 21,000 public schools with nutritious rations, of which more than 90% are locally sourced.
- Consolidated model supported by more than 20,000 volunteer parents in School Feeding Committees that have strengthened local ownership, transparency, and accountability.
- Political leadership that is transforming the programme into a comprehensive public policy that will strengthen its viability over time.

Mexico

Mexico joined the Coalition in May 2023 and submitted its [commitment](#) in June 2023 signed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs around the following areas: Policy, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation.

Achievements

In 2024, legislation was enacted that recognizes the right of children and adolescents to receive adequate and sustainable food in schools. The government also published updated guidelines, prohibiting the sale and distribution of certain products that have high levels of unhealthy ingredients and encouraging healthy school diets based on fresh, local and seasonal foods.

In 2025, Mexico implemented the “Live healthy, live happy” strategy that strengthened support for healthy school environments, and it continued the effort to increase the number of schools certified as health promoters. Additional resources have been allocated for both of these activities.

The government has also strengthened its institutional capacity, collaborating across sectors and through implementing a [virtual platform](#) with information on the “Live healthy, live happy” strategy. Coordination has also been established with all 32 states within the country in support of the certification of health-promoting schools, with a goal of 25,000 certified schools.

Data on the strategy will be collected through a school health census, with the goal of serving 12 million students, and dashboards provide annual information on the number of schools certified as health promoters.

In addition to its participation in the Coalition, Mexico collaborates with international organizations such as the Pan American Health Organization and UNICEF, for technical assistance and to mobilize good practices in school health. Collaboration also occurs at the state and municipal government level to support implementation of school feeding guidelines and to support certification of health-promoting schools.

Next steps

Mexico is addressing challenges around limiting access to unhealthy food and beverages around educational facilities and ensuring better access to fresh and nutritious food, particularly in rural and indigenous communities. It is also working to develop capacity for training of teachers and parents on food education issues, with a focus on sustainability.

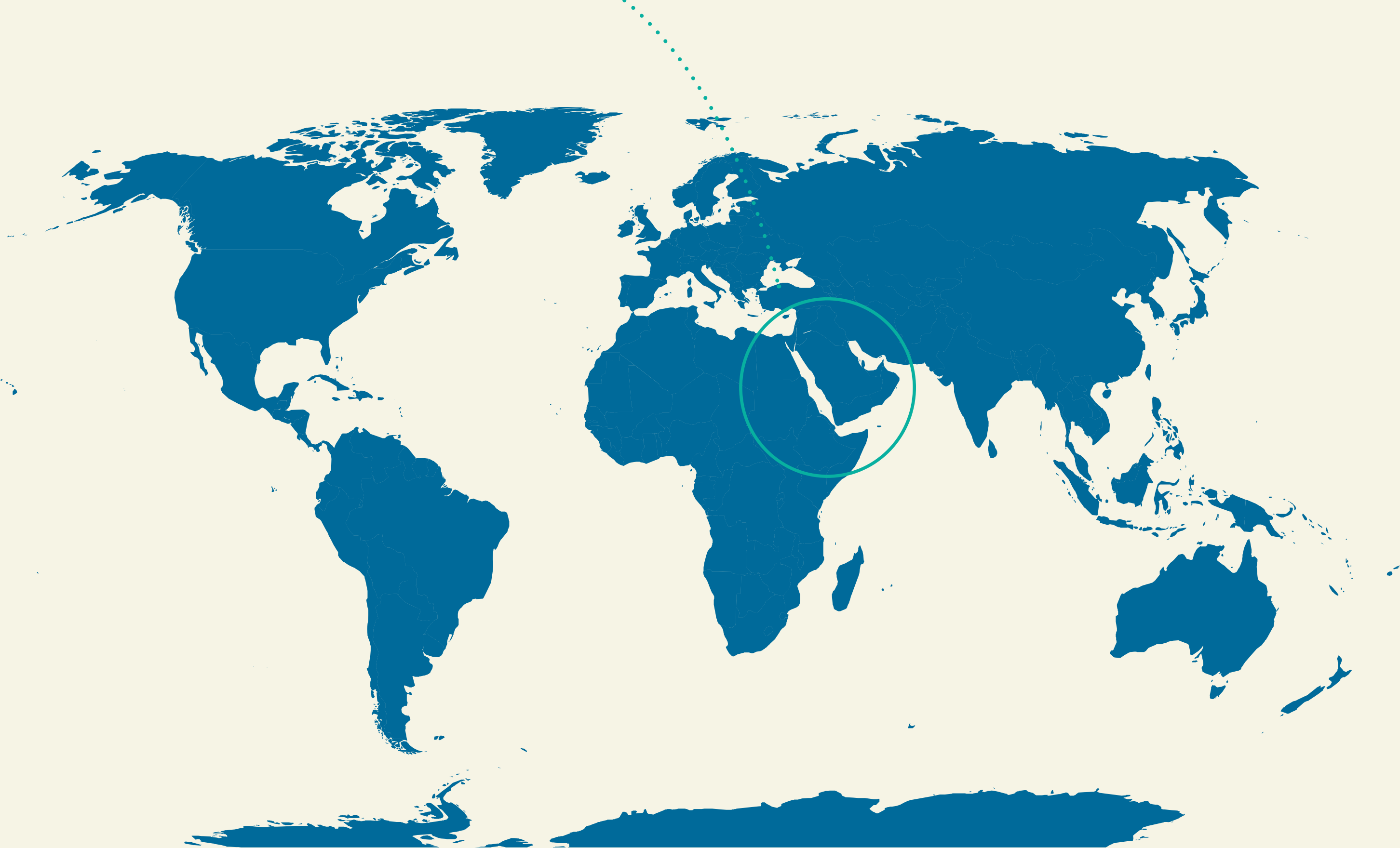
The government would welcome collaboration to exchange regional experiences on certification of healthy school environments, to conduct studies on cost-effectiveness and impact of school meals to justify further budget allocations, and to explore stronger partnerships with municipalities to further limit access to unhealthy food in and around schools.

Highlights

- Launched the “Live healthy, live happy” strategy to further healthy school environments and certify a total of 25,000 health-promoting schools.
- Strengthening institutional capacity and collaborating across sectors and at all levels of government.

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq, Lebanon



Iraq

Iraq joined the Coalition in June 2022 and submitted its [commitment](#) in October 2023 through the Ministry of Education. Iraq submitted commitments in the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Iraq assumed full responsibility for implementing school feeding operations in 2023-2024 and expanded its reach to over 770,000 students across 25 districts despite some administrative delays. The government is in the process of formally approving the school feeding policy and is working with partners to draft legislation to further institutionalize the programme.

Training is taking place for all staff involved in programme implementation, and a plan has been developed to engage the agriculture sector and local markets to strengthen the supply chain. Preliminary discussions are taking place on Home Grown School Feeding, to explore integration of local food production and vocational education to improve nutritional quality of school meals.

A digital system using School Connect as a reporting tool is being planned, with pilot trainings already having occurred. Nutrition guidelines are also being initiated.

The government is working toward participating in peer-to-peer activities of the Coalition to learn from other countries and global school feeding stakeholders, including the upcoming Global Summit of the Coalition in Brazil.

Next steps

The government recognizes the need for stronger coordination across ministries, robust legal frameworks and continuous capacity strengthening to achieve a sustainable and well-managed programme. It would welcome support to resolve misalignment of the fiscal and academic years to ensure timely budget allocations and procurement, finalizing a legal framework to ensure long-term financing of the programme, and ensuring sufficient human resources capacity for efficient implementation.

Highlights

- The government has assumed full responsibility for the national school feeding programme, and expanded its reach to over 770,000 students across 25 districts in 2023-2024.

Lebanon

Lebanon joined the Coalition and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in August 2023 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Lebanon's school meal programme has expanded its coverage from 78,000 students in 2023 to 135,000 students in 2025, including daily in-school snacks in 272 primary public schools, healthy cold meals prepared on-site in 24 school kitchens and catering for an additional 43 nearby schools. An expansion plan aims to establish 10 additional kitchens for the 2025-2026 academic year, with dual functionality to serve affected populations in the case of a national emergency based on recent experiences.

92% of food consumed through the programme is locally produced, of which 68% are fruits and vegetables. Additional efforts to promote Home Grown School Feeding have connected local retailers and agri-food businesses to school kitchens. A digital tracking system has been developed to streamline and monitor distribution.

The government has developed guidelines around food safety and to regulate food items that cannot be sold on school premises. It is working with development partners to review and update nutrition education materials for all age groups, to be rolled out in 2026. The first-ever national assessment on school nutrition and food in Lebanese public schools was conducted in 2024 with a report to be issued in 2025.

As part of the government's school health programme, school gardens are established where feasible, WASH programmes are initiated, and vaccination campaigns are carried out.

Next steps

The government continues to work toward a national strategy and policy.

Given the impacts of the confluence of crises experienced by Lebanon, the food security situation remains fluid and the government's resources are stretched thin, including in the public education sector. Lebanon is therefore not able to allocate funds for a national programme, but is keen to work with partners to understand how to sustain the programme and diversify funding sources.

Specifically, the government seeks support for:

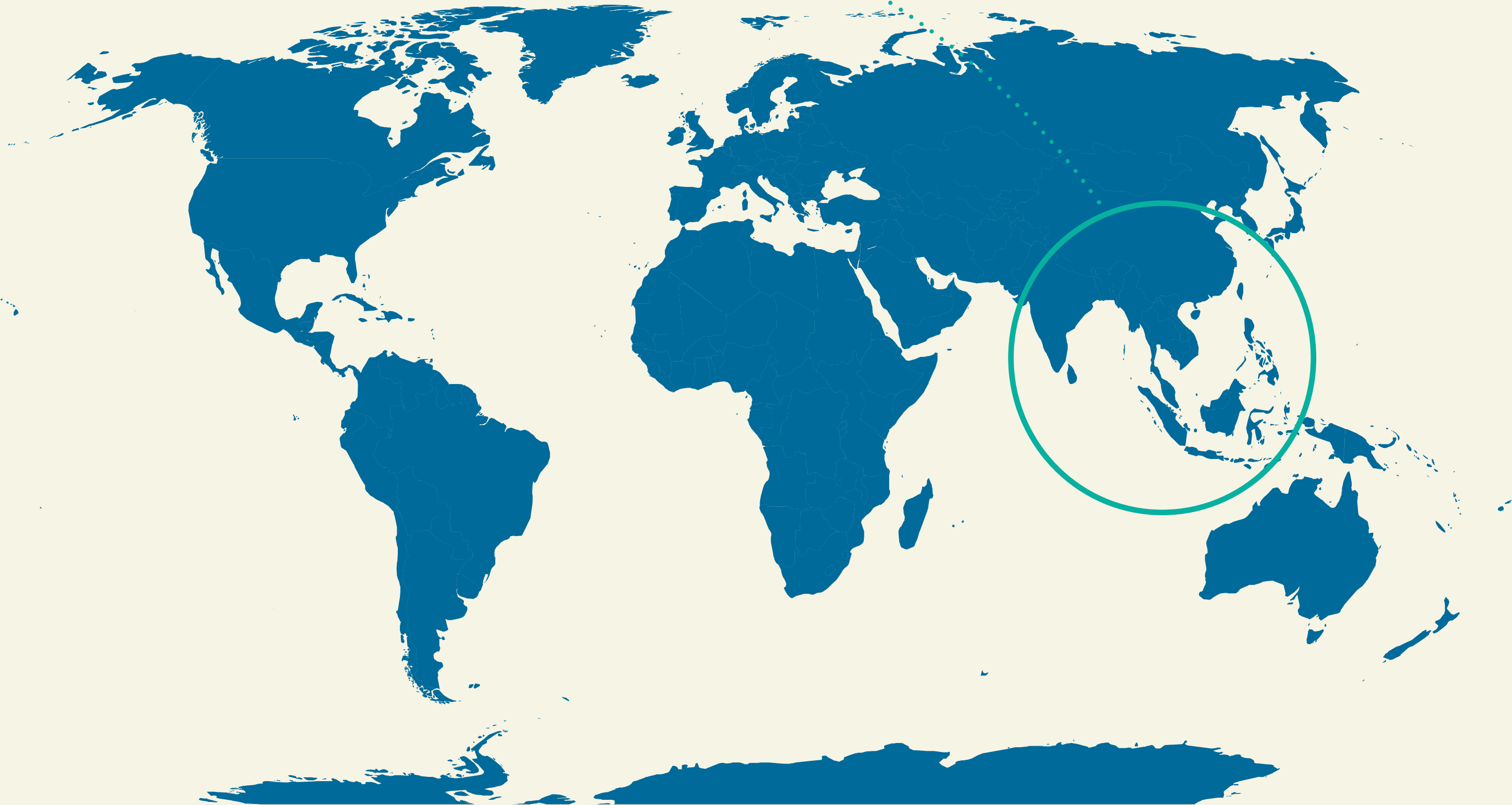
- Exploring financing models for a sustainable, national programme and cost coverage strategies including through procurement efficiencies, local food production and community or private sector contributions.
- Developing materials that promote healthy eating habits and national school meals guidelines that draw on international best practices.
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems, including technical support to scale up the newly developed digital tracking tool.
- Design of a national school meals budget to support long-term planning, cost analysis, and integration into public finance systems.
- Identifying and engaging with donors, including support with fundraising strategies.

Highlights

- Expanded its coverage from 78,000 students in 2023 to 135,000 students in 2025.
- 92% of food is locally produced. Promotion of Home Grown School Feeding has directly connected local retailers and agri-food businesses to school kitchens, and a digital tracking system has been developed to streamline and monitor distribution.
- First-ever national assessment on school nutrition and food in public schools conducted in 2024 – report to be issued in 2025.

South Asia

Bangladesh



Bangladesh

Bangladesh joined the Coalition in July 2023 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Secretary of Education in November 2023 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Programme design and coverage.

Achievements

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) has made significant progress against all four of its commitments to the Coalition. The timeline for some commitments has been revised due to delays in the approval of the proposed Government Primary School Feeding Project.

- The Government doubled its annual budget allocation for school meals from USD75 million to USD150 million.
- Coverage of the national school meals program has increased from 104 to 150 sub-districts, which will be implemented over a three-year period until December 2027.
- The Government has improved the food basket to achieve nutritional outcomes through diversified commodities. to now include bun, seasonal local fruits, eggs and UHT milk in addition to fortified biscuits, starting in July/August 2025.
- The Government is expanding the programme to all remaining 349 sub-districts from 2026, to reduce regional disparities and ensure all children in government primary schools have access to school meals, rather than incorporating school meals into the fifth phase of the Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP5) as initially planned.

In addition to progress on its commitment, Bangladesh has included school feeding in another development initiative: Pre-primary and Primary Education Improvement Project for Bandarban, Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char, funded by the Government and the World Bank, covering approximately 210,000 school children from July 2025.

Next steps

Bangladesh has over 20 million primary school children, of whom approximately 14 million are enrolled in over 65,500 Government Primary Schools that primarily serve children from low-income families. The Government recognizes school meals are a systemic solution to addressing child hunger and poverty and that they play a vital role in improving child nutrition, learning outcomes, long-term well-being and health equity, also contributing to strengthening food systems, boosting local economies and promoting equality in education by keeping girls in school.

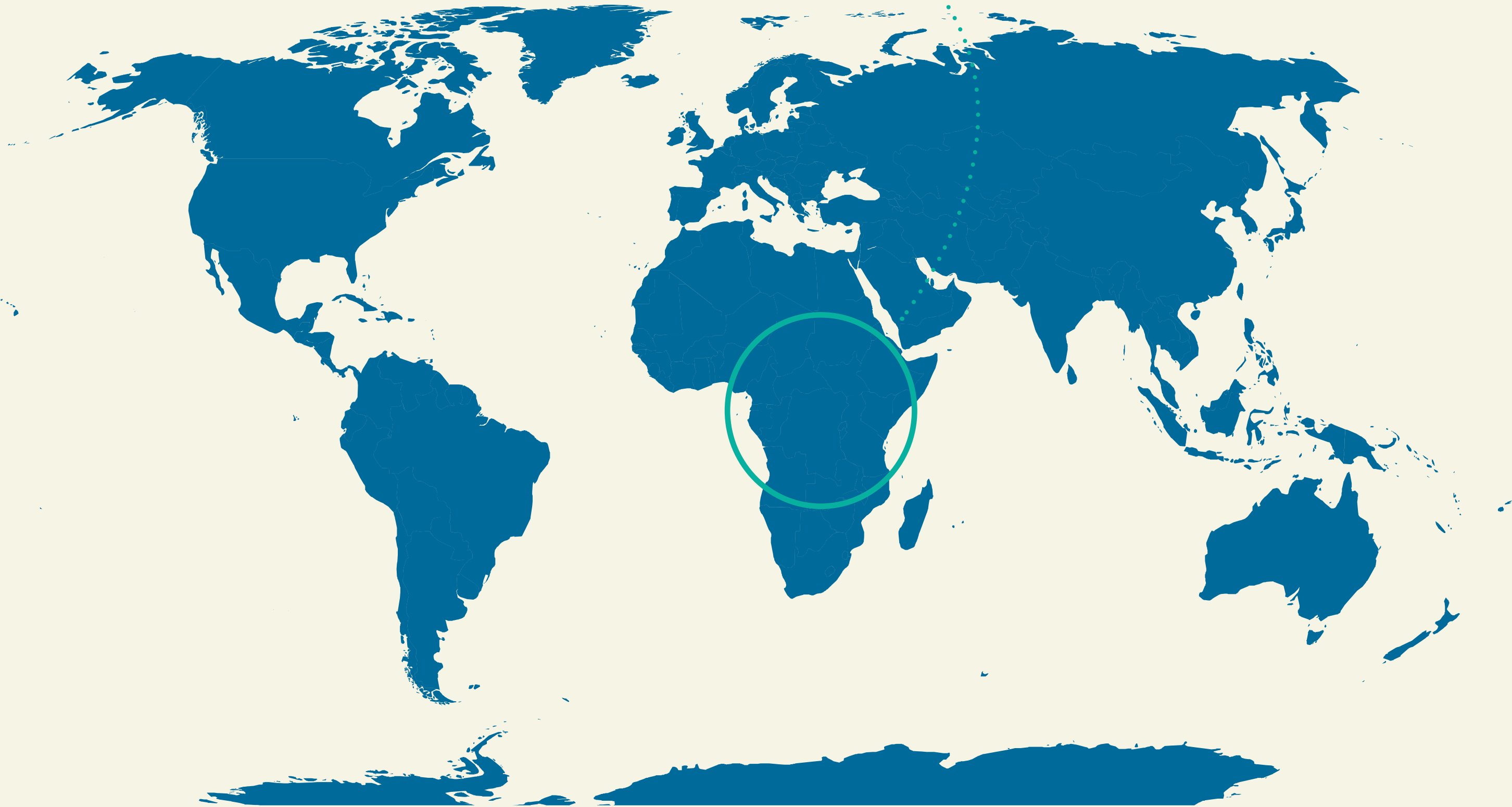
Bangladesh therefore requires support from international financing institutions and other development partners to scale up the programme and would also benefit from support in generating evidence on various aspects of the programme, including financing strategy, value for money and impact.

Highlights

- Bangladesh recognizes school meals are a systemic solution to addressing child hunger and poverty and play a vital role in improving child nutrition, learning outcomes, long-term well-being and health equity, contributing to strengthening food systems, boosting local economies and promoting gender equality.
- The Government doubled its annual budget allocation for school meals from USD75 million to USD150 million and coverage of the national programme has increased from 104 to 150 sub-districts, to be implemented through December 2027.
- A new food basket will be introduced starting July/August 2025 to improve nutrition, expanding beyond fortified biscuits to include eggs, bananas, milk, and other fresh foods.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe



Angola



Angola joined the Coalition in August 2021.

Achievements

The National School Feeding Programme was approved in April 2025 and is scheduled to be launched in September 2025, aiming to reach all children in Preschool and Primary Education – approximately 5.4 million – with one nutritious meal per day.

The Government approved approximately 435 million US dollars in the 2025 State Budget for the programme, with adjustments to be made in the future as needed, based on the number of students.

The National School Feeding Programme was approved by the Council of Ministers, published in the Official Gazette, No. 83/25 of April 15, 2025, and published by Presidential Decree in April 2025.

Importantly, 30 percent of the programme's budget has been allocated for the procurement and supply of food from small farmers.

Next steps

The government is working on developing an investment plan for the new programme until 2028, which will be shared with national, regional, and global stakeholders in order to strengthen the programme's positioning as a high-impact strategic initiative and a long-term investment in human capital.

Angola is looking for technical assistance to strengthen capacity and develop national standards, operational guidelines, monitoring and evaluation systems, and digital tools to enhance programme management, food security, and reporting systems. Support is welcomed to increase the necessary infrastructure investments to fulfill the programme, especially in rural areas, and to help small farmers develop capacity so they can meet institutional procurement standards and effectively participate in the programme. Although 30 percent of the programme's budget has been allocated for the procurement and supply of food from small farmers, many face structural challenges such as limited technical knowledge, fragile organizational structures, and difficulties accessing markets and transportation networks.

Technical support would also be welcome to further develop nutrition education materials, as well as opportunities for peer learning and South-South cooperation. Angola seeks cooperation with countries that have successfully implemented and expanded Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes.

Highlights

- Launch of the Programme in September 2025 aimed at reaching all children in Pre-school Education and Primary Education – approximately 5.4 million – with one nutritious meal per day.
- USD 435 million approved in the 2025 General State Budget for the programme, with adjustments to be made in the future as necessary based on the number of students.
- 30% of the national budget for the School Feeding Programme dedicated to procurement from smallholder farmers.

Benin



Benin joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) signed by the President in April 2024 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

All schools in rural areas are now covered by school canteens, increasing national coverage from 75% to 80% in pursuit of the 100% coverage goal by 2026. Analysis is underway to develop an approach for urban and peri-urban areas which make up the other 20%.

The government has strengthened its governance and institutional frameworks through the creation of the National Agency for Food and Nutrition housed in the Presidency of the Republic, which manages the Integrated School Meals Programme since 2024.

A draft school feeding law designed to ensure financial stability and sustainability of the programme is currently being studied by the National Assembly and is expected to be voted on soon. School meals have been included in relevant sectoral policy documents, including a National Food and Nutrition Policy document approved by the Council of Ministers in July 2024.

The government continues to promote local purchasing and reliance on local production, with direct local purchases increasing from 300 tons in 2021 to more than 8500 tons in 2024.

It has integrated complementary activities into its school meal programme, including support for women's groups and nutrition education, based on its learnings from other countries.

Benin has actively advocated for and mobilized financial support from a range of international partners. It also benefits from technical support on Home Grown School Feeding through regional collaboration and is working with the Sustainable Financing Initiative to develop a comprehensive financing strategy.

Benin participates in regional and international advocacy on school meals, including the 9th African Day of School Feeding in Burundi and has become a model for other countries. For instance, it has received a recent delegation from Gabon to learn and raise awareness of its financing model.

Next steps

Priorities moving forward identified by the government include:

- Ensuring the sustainability of the programme.
- Infrastructure, including having drinking water available in all schools with canteens.
- Strengthened governance to reduce theft.
- Improving the capacity of small-scale producers to respond to the market.
- Integration of complementary activities.

Highlights

- Schools in rural areas are now covered by school canteens, increasing national coverage from 75% to 80% toward a 100% coverage goal by 2026. Analysis is underway to develop an approach for urban and peri-urban areas which make up the other 20%.
- Promotes local purchasing and production, with direct local purchases increasing from 300 tons in 2021 to more than 8500 tons in 2024.

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso joined the Coalition in September 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) in December 2021 through the Ministry of National Education, Literacy and Promotion of National Languages. The commitment was updated in July 2025. Burkina Faso provided commitments in the following areas: Policy, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage.

Achievements

To promote collaboration among school meals stakeholders at regional, national and subnational levels, the government adopted a multisectoral national nutrition policy for 2020-2029, has implemented a Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Nutrition 2021-2025 and developed a national food and nutrition strategy for 2025-2029.

Specific achievements related to school meals include:

- An increase in the share of local products in school canteens, through support of the Ministry of Agriculture targeting eight sectors and a better structuring of the supply chain for the educational sector. Nearly 85% of products consumed in canteens are from Burkina Faso with a goal of reaching 100%.
- Promotion of the “endogenous canteen” model, where food is produced by local communities, has resulted in 1634 school gardens, 663 fields and collection of nearly 4000 tons of food.
- Development of menus taking into account nutritional needs and local culture.
- Promotion of school health and nutrition activities including a medical examination that makes it possible to reach an average of 100,000 students per year. Partners help provide students with micronutrients and deworming interventions.
- Capacity development of actors involved in school food and nutrition including nutrition education modules and training for municipal stakeholders.
- Establishment of a committee to monitor the quality of food
- Development of guidelines for promoting local production in canteens.
- Digitization of data on canteens.

Next steps

Current challenges include the need for financing, technological innovation, and solutions for addressing logistical issues such as access to water. The government therefore welcomes support for areas including diversification of menus, establishment of water facilities, strengthening agricultural production techniques and addressing climate and environmental factors, strengthening food and nutrition education and identifying investment for infrastructure and equipment needed for further development of canteens and local production and processing.

Highlights

- Increase in the share of local products in school canteens, through support of the Ministry of Agriculture targeting eight sectors and a better structuring of the supply chain. Nearly 85% of products consumed in schools are from Burkina Faso with a goal of reaching 100%.
- Development of menus taking into account nutritional needs and local culture.
- Promotion of school health and nutrition activities including a medical examination that reaches 100,000 students per year. Partners help provide students with micronutrients and deworming interventions.

Burundi

Burundi joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in October 2023 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

The number of schoolchildren receiving school meals increased from 730,000 in 2023 to 810,000 in 2025. In two years, the government tripled the national contribution budget for school meals from USD 2.5 million (BIF 4.8 billion) in 2022-2023 to USD 9 million (BIF 27 billion) in 2024-2025.

The revised National School Feeding Programme is awaiting approval, and an implementation and financing strategy is being developed with support of the Sustainable Financing Initiative.

The 2024-2027 school health and nutrition strategy, validated in March 2024, integrates school feeding and is accompanied by a roadmap and capacity development manual for stakeholders.

Local purchases increased from 50 schools in 2023 to 264 primary schools in 2025 – 30% of the 885 schools. From September 2024 to June 2025, more than 3300 tons of food were purchased through cooperatives of small producers to serve 205,000 students with a total of USD 3,347,500 injected in local economies.

A menu guide for school meals was approved in 2024, including the consumption of locally sourced products. The Nyakiriza Sun Project, financed by the World Bank, supported 1600 improved cookstoves for more sustainable energy sources.

Studies on impact evaluation and value for money have been completed and published in collaboration with Harvard University and the World Bank.

Breakfast has been introduced in schools, supported by local purchasing – providing meals fortified with micronutrients to 109,953 children in 138 schools.

The government hosted the Africa Day of School Feeding in 2024 under the High Patronage of the President of the Republic and the First Lady. More than 28 countries and 15 Ministers of Education participated, along with the AU Commissioner for Science and Technology.

Next steps

To support implementation of the program, analysis is being done at the subnational level on the structure needed.

The government highlights the following challenges:

- Insufficient budget to support universal coverage, compounded by inflation in the costs of commodities; only 25% of schools are currently covered.
- Limitations in supply due to quality of food products, low capacity of processing units to provide necessary local products, and low agricultural production and productivity.

The government welcomes assistance with a sustainable financing strategy and with capacity development at both the central and decentralized levels.

Highlights

- Schoolchildren receiving meals increased from 730,000 in 2023 to 810,000 in 2025. In two years, the government tripled the budget for school meals from USD 2.5 million (BIF 4.8 billion) in 2022-2023 to USD 9 million (BIF 27 billion) in 2024-2025.
- Local purchases from smallholder farmer cooperatives increased from 50 schools in 2023 to 264 primary schools in 2025 and will be expanded to 851 schools in 2026 with support from international financing institutions and multilateral funds.
- Hosted the Africa Day of School Feeding in 2024 under the High Patronage of the President and the First Lady, with participation from 28 countries and the African Union.

Cameroon

Cameroon joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education in October 2023 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Cameroon has included school feeding in its education policy, recognizing its key role in improving human capital and reducing inequality. The goal is to reach 1,000,000 children by 2025.

The National Strategy for School Feeding is being finalized, with technical support from international partners and a multi-sectoral approach. In parallel, Cameroon is also benefitting from the support of the Sustainable Financing Initiative (SFI) to develop a long-term financing strategy for its national programme.

In collaboration with subnational authorities, civil society organizations and technical partners, a national school meals programme is being developed, supervised by a team in the Ministry of Basic Education.

Awareness campaigns are conducted annually to highlight the importance of nutrition and education, especially for girls.

The government has budgeted USD 19.4 million and mobilized additional funds through partners such as Education Cannot Wait and the Emergency Project to Combat Food Crisis (PULCCA).

Next steps

The government is facing challenges in meeting its goal of reaching 1 million children by 2025, including around the budget and its sustainability, coverage in crisis-affected regions, gaps in data, and limited intersectoral coordination.

It therefore welcomes support in financial capacity building, technical and logistical support for supply chain management, and training for local stakeholders in addition to donations of equipment to support kitchens and storage infrastructure. Cameroon would also welcome participating in knowledge sharing with other Coalition members to learn more about solutions such as school gardens and sustainable energy supply.

Highlights

- Included school feeding in its education policy, recognizing the key role of school meals in improving human capital and reducing inequality, with the goal of reaching 1,000,000 children by 2025. To support this ambition, the government has budgeted USD 19.4 million and mobilized additional resources through partners such as Education Cannot Wait and the Emergency Project to Combat the Food Crisis (PULCCA).
- National school meals programme is being developed with subnational authorities, civil society organizations and technical partners, led by a team in the Ministry of Basic Education. The programme is guided by a new National School Feeding Strategy and supported by the development of a sustainable financing strategy through the Sustainable Financing Initiative.

Central African Republic

The Central African Republic joined the Coalition in June 2023 and submitted its [commitment](#) signed by the Prime Minister in June 2024 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

On the political level, school feeding is identified in Central African Republic's National Development Plan 2024-2028, with a key priority to ensure universal coverage by 2028.

Financially, the government created a budget line of USD 87,100 (CFA 50 million) for school meals in the 2024 budget. While insufficient to cover the current requirements of the programme, this step demonstrates political will to prioritize school meals.

From 2024 to 2025, there was a gradual increase in coverage with 174,000 children reached in 192 schools to 236,000 children reached in 336 schools. Home Grown School Feeding has been launched in 26 out of 45 schools, including modern kitchens equipped with improved stoves, community-managed gardens connected to canteens and the inclusion of activities that benefit local communities.

To support implementation, a series of training sessions on food management was held, including introducing digital data collection tools on the operation and management of the canteen and community engagement.

Next steps

A National Directorate of School Feeding has been developed and is undergoing approval, and discussions are underway to establish a multi-sectoral Steering Committee and a framework for multi-sectoral consultation.

Central African Republic would benefit from support to develop a resource mobilization strategy, including innovative mechanisms and connections to new sources of funds. The government would welcome the opportunity for South-South cooperation including learning trips to countries whose programmes are further developed.

Highlights

- School feeding is identified in the National Development Plan 2024-2028, including a priority to reach universal coverage by 2028.
- From 2024 to 2025, an increase in coverage with 174,000 children reached in 192 schools to 236,000 children reached in 336 schools.
- Home Grown School Feeding launched in 26 schools, including modern kitchens equipped with improved stoves, community-managed gardens connected to canteens and the inclusion of activities that benefit local communities.

Chad

Chad joined the Coalition in November 2021 and submitted its commitment through the Ministry of National Education and Civic Promotion in September 2023.

Achievements

The government is developing a national home-grown school feeding strategy and its adoption by the Council of Ministers is scheduled for the end of December 2025. The strategy is aiming to support food systems transformation through integrating public finance, climate resilience, and private sector participation in the school meals programme. It also aims to strengthen capacity of the key institutions and actors involved.

Chad has made significant progress in educational financing, increasing the education budget by 19% in 2025 including USD 850,000 (≈CFA 500 million) in subsidies for school canteens.

In addition, 40% of school canteens are applying a home-grown school feeding model, 20% benefit from integrated health, nutrition, and hygiene programs and 30% are deploying environmentally friendly initiatives.

A digitized information management system is being implemented to monitor the programme and a financing roundtable is being planned for the end of 2025, in coordination with adoption of the new strategy.

Next steps

The government is seeking strategic partnerships to catalyze innovative financing for the programme that combines climate resilience and sustainable school food security, to operationalize multi-sectoral governance through concrete tools, and to transform political commitments into actions at the local level based on reliable data.

Highlights

- Working toward adoption of a new strategy in 2025 that integrates public finance, climate resilience, and private sector participation.
- Increased the education budget by 19% in 2025 including USD 850,000 (≈CFA 500 million) in subsidies for school canteens.
- 40% of school canteens apply a home-grown school feeding model, 20% benefit from integrated health, nutrition, and hygiene programs, and 30% deploy environmentally friendly initiatives.

Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire joined the Coalition in January 2023.

Achievements

Côte d'Ivoire has continuously strengthened national capacity for school meal implementation and developed an evidence base to support informed programming and advocacy.

In 2024, the Government updated its National School Feeding Strategy, reaffirming its vision to reach 60% of public primary school students for 80 out of 120 school days annually by 2030.

This strategy prioritizes the expansion of the home-grown school feeding model, while reinforcing institutional and financial frameworks to ensure sustainability.

To support this agenda, two key studies were completed. A Cost-Benefit Analysis conducted in 2023 with Harvard University demonstrated a return of USD 9 for every USD 1 invested.

In 2024, a Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) assessment was carried out to evaluate national capacities and inform a targeted action plan for system strengthening.

These findings were prominently showcased during the 2025 Africa Day of School Feeding, highlighting the critical role of regional and local authorities in sustaining the programme. They also informed a high-level roundtable in May 2025 between the Government and the private sector, centred on the newly launched National Multisectoral Nutrition Plan. During the discussion, school feeding was emphasized as a key intervention to combat malnutrition and drive progress on nutrition outcomes.

As a result of enhanced institutional capacity and strong national advocacy, the Government increased the school meals budget by 68% between 2022 and 2025 from US\$4.5 million to US\$8.3 million.

This has allowed coverage to expand from 26 to 33 school days annually, now reaching over 1.02 million students across 5,602 schools.

Next steps

To advance toward its 2030 targets, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire seeks support to:

- Update the National School Feeding Policy and Strategy to improve coordination and guide multisectoral efforts;
- Submit its Coalition commitment to the Council of Ministers and continue advocacy for a national school feeding law;
- Develop and pilot the home-grown school feeding model as a basis for sustainable scale-up;
- Identify long-term funding solutions, including through the Sustainable Financing Initiative.

Highlights

- The updated strategy reaffirms a 60% coverage goal by 2030.
- National budget for school meals increased by 68% (from USD 4.5 million in 2022 to USD 8.3 million in 2025).
- 1.02 million students benefit in 36% of public primary schools.

Djibouti



Djibouti joined the Coalition in August 2024 and submitted its commitment through the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training in August 2024 around the following areas: Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage.

Achievements

School canteens will be extended to more schools in the municipality of Balbala in Djibouti City in September 2025, reaching 1800 students. A feasibility study will be conducted to expand to other areas of Djibouti City.

100 canteens and canteen-helpers, 175 school principals, 225 members of the School Management Committees and 68 gardeners have been trained to support the programme.

85 refectories, 100 stocks and 58 improved stoves have been built in 5 regions to strengthen the programme, and to support local production, 68 school gardens have been installed in addition to chicken coops in 3 pilot schools.

Next steps

There are additional plans to install livestock for improved food security, especially in rural schools, and to train members of the Management Committee of Coastal Schools on local fish processing techniques to supply school canteens with seafood.

Challenges faced by the government include limited budget resources and the need to train nutritionists to improve the quality of meals, to promote local production and to find sources of additional funding to make school meals a greater priority.

The government seeks support in the expansion of school meals in vulnerable urban areas, improving the status of canteen-assistants, training nutritionists and securing additional financial resources.

Highlights

- School canteens to be extended to more schools in Djibouti City in September 2025, reaching 1800 students. Feasibility study to be conducted to expand to other areas of Djibouti City.
- Improved infrastructure in 5 regions to strengthen the programme. To support local production, 68 school gardens installed, in addition to chicken coops in 3 pilot schools.

Democratic Republic of Congo



The Democratic Republic of Congo joined the Coalition in July 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education in February 2022 around the following areas: Policy, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

The government has developed a national school meals strategy integrating principles of local ownership and community participation that has gone through extensive consultations and was adopted in August 2025. The strategy is aligned with the country's national development plan that goes through 2029.

The new strategy includes a cross-sectoral coordination body with representatives from the health, planning, agriculture, education and social affairs ministries as well as the private sector and local non-profit organizations. It also outlines infrastructure standards for canteens with an emphasis on inclusive design, with accessibility norms for children with disabilities.

To promote local food systems and sustainable sourcing, the government has designed a localized circular economy model based on non-monetary contributions, structured community groups, and partnerships with smallholder cooperatives. The model supports smallholder farmers, local markets, and agricultural production.

Next steps

The government is looking for technical support to finalize the national school meals investment plan and partnerships to support kitchens and storage infrastructure. It highlights additional needs around capacity building and training for local stakeholders and development of a digital monitoring system to track community contributions and food delivery.

Highlights

- Developed a national school meals strategy integrating principles of local ownership and community participation, adopted in August 2025 and aligned with the national development plan through 2029.
- To promote local food systems and sustainable sourcing, a localized circular economy model was designed based on non-monetary contributions, structured community groups, and partnerships with smallholder cooperatives.

The Gambia

The Gambia joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) in October 2022 through the Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education around the following areas: Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Despite fiscal constraints, The Gambia has incrementally increased its school meals budget each year since 2019 – a total of USD 70,000 (GMD 5 million) – and has restored coverage to pre-COVID-19 levels. As of May 2025, 328,260 children were covered with programmes from the government, national and international partners.

The government is working with the Islamic Development Bank to analyze and develop cohesive policy and legal frameworks and coordination mechanisms for its National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, with the goal of securing a concessional loan to ensure universal coverage.

The government conducts periodic nationwide vaccinations and has re-introduced distribution of deworming tablets and Vitamin A supplements to children under the school meals programme, and as of 2025, 113,478 children were covered. Additional activities include: mapping mothers' clubs to identify needs and strengthen capacity in child health and dietary diversity; efforts to support women in promoting girls' education; and supporting women in the fishing industry to improve infrastructure for fish processing.

The government has engaged the Food Safety and Quality Authority to improve programme safety and at the local level, engages parents and teachers to help manage the programme.

To link smallholder farmers to the programme, an intersectoral Home Grown School Feeding committee is being revived and strengthened and the Ministry of Agriculture is supporting farmers to increase production and productivity, including through training in the public procurement process, food quality and safety.

The government has also engaged in south-south cooperation through a visit to Cote D'Ivoire.

Next steps

The government welcomes both technical and financial support to address challenges around capacity on Home Grown School Feeding, sustainable financing, and infrastructure. It is also focused on creating enabling policy and legal frameworks and strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems as important steps toward strengthening the programme.

Highlights

- Incrementally increased its school meals budget each year since 2019 – a total of USD 70,000 (GMD 5 million) – and restored coverage to pre-COVID-19 levels.
- Working with the Islamic Development Bank to analyze and develop cohesive policy and legal frameworks and coordination mechanisms for its National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme.
- Conducts periodic nationwide vaccinations and re-introduced distribution of deworming tablets and Vitamin A supplements to children through the programme.

Kenya

Kenya joined the School Meals Coalition in July 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education in April 2023 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation.

Achievements

Kenya has expanded its national school meals programme from 1.9 million children in 2023 to 2.6 million in 2025, with a goal of universal coverage by 2030. This scale-up is guided by the “Operational Plan for SMP Scale-up 2024–2030,” developed with support from WFP and the Rockefeller Foundation.

A National School Meals Coalition was launched in 2024, bringing together over 100 partners and structured into six Technical Working Groups. The Ministry of Education is finalizing a National School Meals Policy with support from development partners. A digitalized school meals module hosted in the National Education Management Information System (NEMIS) will be migrated to the new Kenya Education Management Information System (KEMIS) once launched.

Kenya is piloting a School Meals Aggregator Model to strengthen market linkages with smallholder farmers and is introducing green technologies to support clean cooking in schools. The country also promotes school gardens through the re-establishment of 4-K clubs and has participated in international peer-learning exchanges, such as a South-South Learning Exchange in Brazil.

Next steps

Kenya is mindful of challenges and is working towards the following priority actions:

- Mobilize additional funding to support the scale-up of the school meals programme.
- Invest in infrastructure development, particularly in building and upgrading school kitchens and food storage facilities.
- Improve access to clean water in schools.
- Accelerate the deployment of clean cooking technologies, ensuring schools transition from biomass to sustainable energy solutions.

Highlights

- Increased school meals coverage from 1.9 million to 2.6 million children, aiming for universal access by 2030.
- Launched a National School Meals Coalition with over 100 partners and six Technical Working Groups.
- Piloting clean cooking technologies and school gardens; supporting smallholder farmers through aggregator models.

Lesotho

Lesotho joined the Coalition in July 2023 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education and Training in August 2023 around Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Lesotho is a pilot country for GPE's School Health & Nutrition Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) project with 5 areas of focus: sustainable financing; design of a costed school feeding Policy Implementation Plan; support for institutional & multisectoral coordination; national standards for menus, and design of a school feeding food supply and demand mapping.

Progress for each of Lesotho's National Commitments:

- Policy provisions requiring procurement of 80% commodities sourced locally, in line with the 2024 National School Feeding Policy: currently, 100% eggs, vegetables, and maize meal, 60% samp, 30% beans.
- Cabinet directive to protect and increase school feeding budget ensured adequate budget provisions for school meals.
- Budget for school meals increased by 57% (cost per meal) in 2024-2025 due to strong political commitment as follows:
 - » 2023-2024: ≈USD 8.1 million (LSL 146 million)
 - » 2024-2025: ≈USD 11.9 million (LSL 230 million)
 - » 2025-2026: ≈USD 15.7 million (LSL 301 million)
- School Feeding Advisory Board is in place. The Technical Assistance Facility is capacitating the Board's multi-sectoral role towards the implementation of Home-Grown School Feeding.
- A WFP-supported pilot is working with farmers to supply commodities for schools in 2 of the 10 districts of Lesotho, with funding from Monaco. School gardens are being encouraged in primary schools with some farmers supplying vegetables through the National Management Agents, the school feeding implementing agencies.
- A value-for-money case study is also underway.

Next steps

- While the current fiscal climate has prevented further increase in the school feeding daily rate per child, Lesotho commits to maintaining the current rate.
- The five (5) areas supported under the Technical Assistance Facility: 1. Development of immediate-term activities supporting the National School Feeding Programme's sustainable financing; 2. Design, endorsement and costing of the National School Feeding Programme's Implementation Plan; 3. Support strengthening institutional & multi-sectoral coordination; 4. Update national standards for menus/recipes; 5. Design of a food supply-and-demand mapping.

Highlights

- With strong political commitment, the school meals budget almost doubled from the 2023-2024 school year to the 2025-2026 school year.
- 2024 National School Feeding Policy provisions require procurement of 80% of commodities from local smallholder farmers. In 2025, 100% of eggs, vegetables and maize meal were procured locally.
- Home-Grown School Feeding through the Monaco funded pilot in 2 districts out of 10, has stimulated an increase in production of eggs and vegetables in the rest of the country.

Mali

Mali joined the Coalition in September 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of National Education in April 2024 around the following areas: Policy, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation.

Achievements

In 2025, the number of government-supported school canteens (vs. those supported by WFP) is 1855, an increase of 18% compared to 2024, with the goal of increasing the number by 30% by 2030.

A SABER workshop, held in May 2024 to assess the country's national competencies in school food and nutrition, laid the groundwork for updating the National School Feeding Policy and developing a five-year action plan for implementation of the programme by the end of 2025.

Draft decrees to strengthen the legal and governance frameworks for school feeding are in the process of being adopted, and a school canteen management manual was developed to be distributed to stakeholders in 2025.

The pilot phase of a programme to mainstream nutrition in the basic education curriculum was finalized and will be introduced once validated.

A Home-Grown School Feeding Programme is being developed, assessed and costed, to be shared with potential donors.

An automated monitoring platform for school canteens is being updated with support from the World Bank.

Next steps

The government's goals are to address current financing constraints around the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, so it can be mainstreamed throughout the country to ensure exclusive supply of local products.

It seeks capacity development support for national managers of school canteens and to equip the National Centre for School Canteens with monitoring capacity.

Highlights

- In 2025, increased number of government-supported school canteens to 1855, an increase of 18% compared to 2024. Goal is to increase by 30% by 2030.
- Update of National School Feeding Policy and development of five-year action plan for implementation of the programme underway – to be completed in 2025.

Mauritania



Mauritania joined the Coalition in September 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of National Education and of Reform for the Education System in March 2024 around the following areas: Programme design and coverage, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

The government has expanded the school meals programme to all regions of the country, including the poorest areas of the capital in Nouakchott, and has now reached 35% of those enrolled in school thanks to annual budget increases for school meals.

The government has also promoted the supply of local food, including domestic food products such as rice, fish, salt, and fortified millet flour.

It has also promoted municipalities and other stakeholders to participate in the programme, through awareness raising efforts among local elected officials and parents.

Mauritania has also worked to diversify the funding of the programme, through collaboration with WFP and CounterPart International.

Next steps

The government seeks support with studies relating to the potential for increasing local supply, resolving challenges with transport and storage of food products, and addressing limited infrastructure related to the operation of school canteens.

Highlights

- Annual budget increases allowed expansion of programme to all regions of the country, including the poorest areas of the capital in Nouakchott, reaching 35% of those enrolled in school.
- Promotes supply of local food, including domestic food products such as rice, fish, salt, and fortified millet flour.

Mozambique



Mozambique joined the Coalition in November 2021.

Achievements

Mozambique has included school feeding in the following development plans for the country: National Development Strategy (2025-2044); Five-year Government Programme (2025-2029); Economic and Social Plan and State Budget (2025); Strategic Plan for Education (2020-2029); Education Sector Preparedness, Response and Recovery Strategy in Emergencies (2021-2029); Security, Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategy (2024-2030); Strategic Plan for the Development of the Agricultural Sector (2024-2030) and the National Strategy for Basic Social Security (2016-2024).

School meals are included in the Five-year Government Programme (PQG), 2025-2029, with approval of approximately USD 112 million (7.000.000.000 Meticaís) to support sustainability and expansion of the programme in the next five years which could reach more than 1 million students.

Mozambique has also been exploring financing mechanisms, such as debt conversion funds, and has received financing from the World Bank for the Integrated Development Project of Mozambique, estimated to benefit more than 1 million children with school meals in the next five years.

A project led by World Vision Mozambique, budgeted at USD 35 million, has benefited more than 86,000 students. The government works with a total of 10 implementing partners. Engagement of the private sector has been initiated, with a project to be implemented in Cabo Delgado that could benefit more than 40,000 students in the next five years.

A legal and normative framework has been created, with the National School Feeding Strategy, to lay the groundwork for drafting of legislation in the future. Management guidelines have been developed, including manuals for promotion of nutrition education, school gardens and effective warehouse management.

Work has also been done to assess the impact of school meals and to articulate the cost-benefit analysis, with results indicating that the return is four times the investment and that the benefits are multisectoral with emphasis on education, health, agriculture and social protection.

School meals are a priority of the current government, and it continues to pursue opportunities for leadership and high-level engagement, including in international forums such as the Global Partnership on Education and the African Union.

Next steps

The government welcomes opportunities to collaborate around the following areas: sustainable finance, institutional and capacity building, infrastructure, strengthening of local value chains, logistics and distribution, community engagement and monitoring, evaluation and research.

Highlights

- Results from cost-benefit analysis indicate the return on school meals is four times the investment, with multisector benefits across education, health, agriculture and social protection.
- Exploration of financing mechanisms such as debt conversion funds and initiation of the Integrated Development Project of Mozambique, with financing from the World Bank, estimated to benefit more than 1 million children with school meals from 2025-2030.

Namibia

Namibia joined the Coalition in August 2021.

Achievements

Namibia's National School Food Programme, launched in 1991, is governed by a comprehensive national policy that ensures all learners in public schools from Grade one to Grade 7 (Primary Schools) and Grade 8-12 in public schools are all eligible for meals. The policy promotes inclusive access, improved nutrition, and stronger learning outcomes, while also supporting local food systems and smallholder farmers in some selected schools.

The programme currently reaches over 500,000 learners, with more than USD 7.56 million (N\$140 million) allocated annually by the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture.

The National School Feeding Programme is decentralized, with schools managing implementation at regional level (locally). While the programme primarily targets learners from pre-primary upwards in public schools, it has recently expanded to include Early Development Centers as of July 2025. This follows the 2021 pilot of the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP), in partnership with WFP aimed at diversifying the diet of the National School Feeding Programme in selected schools.

To strengthen evidence-based implementation and monitoring, Namibia is investing in digital data systems. The Namibia School Feeding Information System (NASIS), developed in partnership with WFP, will provide real-time data on meals served, attendance, and food stock levels. A recent Value for Money study will further support advocacy and investment in the programme.

The government emphasizes strong coordination across ministries and stakeholders, and the National School Feeding Programme is aligned with national development plans and international commitments, including the SDGs.

Next steps

Namibia aims to expand its school meals programme to include all secondary learners, but limited financial resources remain a key challenge. Strengthening the capacity and reliability and incentives for volunteer cooks is also a priority, as is improving the timeliness of food deliveries to schools.

The government is seeking support for capacity strengthening for various key stakeholders of the NSFP (Cooks, supply chain management) and roll out its new digital monitoring system across all schools to better track meals, attendance, and food stocks.

Highlights

- National School Meals Policy ensures inclusive access to meals for all learners in public schools, with recent expansion to kindergartens.
- Over USD 7.56 million (N\$140 million) allocated annually to reach more than 500,000 learners.
- Development of a real-time school feeding data system and recent Value for Money study to guide future investments.
- Expansion of school feeding programme to Early Childhood Centers in all 14 regions.

Republic of Congo

The Republic of Congo joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) signed by the Prime Minister and Head of Government in February 2025 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage.

Achievements

Despite fiscal difficulties, the government is committed to respect the multi-year budget for school meals.

It has developed proposals for a National Multisectoral Council for School Feeding and an Interministerial Technical Committee, both of which are under review by the Cabinet.

Through a multisectoral technical working group, it is working on an updated National School Feeding Policy and a National School Feeding Strategy is being developed.

The government is committed to making the programme accessible to vulnerable populations, including indigenous people, yet this commitment is still being realized.

Republic of Congo is also strengthening the capacity of the various sectors involved in school feeding, including the Prime Minister's office and Education, Agriculture and Livestock, Social Affairs, Planning, Trade, Finance and Health.

Next steps

The government has experienced challenges in developing a comprehensive national programme, including integration of small-scale local producers and engaging local researchers with the Research Consortium on School Health and Nutrition. It would benefit from both technical and financial support to address these challenges given the current global fiscal crisis.

Highlights

- Working to respect the multi-year budget for school meals despite difficult fiscal environment.
- Capacity strengthening of sectors involved in school feeding, including the Prime Minister's office and Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Livestock, Social Affairs, Planning, Trade, Finance and Health.

Rwanda

Rwanda joined the Coalition in July 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education in September 2021 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Rwanda has significantly expanded its programme, growing coverage from 874,244 students to over 4.47 million in pre-primary, primary and secondary levels. This scale up demonstrates Rwanda's strong commitment to improving child nutrition, educational outcomes and social protection through school meals, as marked by the following developments:

- A dedicated budget line for school meals increased from USD 6.25 million (RWF 8 billion) in 2021 to USD 73.4 million (RWF 94 billion) in 2024. The government now covers 90% of the food cost for all pre-primary and primary students, representing approximately 80% of students in the country.
- A School Feeding Financing Strategy (2023-2032) to ensure the programme's long-term sustainability, including a campaign directed at the public and private sectors.
- Operational guidelines, under review to align with programme implementation.
- Establishment of a National Multisectoral School Feeding Steering Committee and a School Feeding Technical Working Group, complemented by committees at the district and school level to ensure local ownership and accountability and smooth implementation.
- Creation of a multisectoral Task Force on Clean Cooking Energy, co-chaired by the Ministry of Education and WFP—an important milestone for the clean cooking agenda in schools.
- Training for school and community stakeholders on food safety and quality.
- Central and semi-central procurement by the government of long shelf-life commodities, to maximize the impact of the national government's support, leaving schools with the responsibility to procure fresh and non-food items. The government also covers bills for water and electricity to ensure WASH services.
- Development of procurement guidelines that prioritize sourcing of locally produced commodities, to strengthen local agriculture and rural livelihoods.
- Active government participation in regional and international collaboration to strengthen its program and share best practices, such as the East Africa School Meals Coalition Network and learning and exchange visits.

Next steps

Rwanda has experienced challenges around the following areas where it would welcome support:

- Limited access to clean cooking technologies in schools, meaning most (94.9%) use firewood which is inefficient and poses health and environment risks.
- Limited investment, with diversified investments from development partners and the private sector needed to complement the substantial increases made by the government.
- The need for continuous improvements in nutritional quality and diversity of school meals through fresh and nutritious food, bio-fortification and fortification to ensure meals meet children's dietary requirements and contribute to learning and development outcomes.

Highlights

- Demonstrated strong commitment to improving child nutrition, educational outcomes and social protection through school meals.
- Significant expansion of programme to grow coverage from 874,244 students to over 4.47 million in pre-primary, primary and secondary levels. Demonstration of strong commitment to improving child nutrition, educational outcomes and social protection through school meals.
- Budget increased from USD 6.25 million (RWF 8 billion) in 2021 to USD 73.4 million (RWF 94 billion) in 2024. Government now covers 90% of the food cost for all pre-primary and primary students, representing approximately 80% of students in the country.

São Tomé and Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe joined the Coalition in November 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) in February 2024 through the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science around the following areas: Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation.

Achievements

As part of its commitment to extend school feeding through compulsory basic education (9th grade) by 2030, São Tomé and Príncipe has:

- In 2023–2024, extended the programme to the 3rd Cycle of Basic Education for the first time, covering a pilot school.
- In 2024–2025, provided meals to 7th grade students in five educational establishments, benefiting 503 students representing approximately 12% of the total number of 7th graders in the country.

The Government is working to mobilize financial and logistical resources to extend the program to additional lower secondary schools, demonstrating commitment to a universal programme by 2030. It is also working with the Ministry of Finance to implement a phased taxation scheme laid out in recent legislation that will help finance the programme.

Local contracting and procurement techniques are being explored to ensure that food served through the programme increasingly comes from national production. A concrete example was the acquisition of 4000 liters of local palm oil to integrate in school meals, a commitment to the value of traditional products that support the rural economy.

Collaboration with the organization Associação para o Desenvolvimento Agropecuário e Proteção do Ambiente (ADAPPA), which works directly with smallholder farmers in the production and distribution of local products, has ensured regular supply of food to schools in the districts of Cantagalo, Lobata and Lembá, strengthening the link between local agriculture and school feeding, promoting sustainable supply chains and boosting the local economy.

São Tomé and Príncipe contributed to sharing good practices and promoting South-South cooperation on school meals, including through hosting two events in December 2024: the III International Seminar on Good Practices on School Feeding in the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP).

Next steps

The government identified challenges around the financial and strategic sustainability of the programme, the shift necessary to achieve universal coverage, inadequate infrastructure, the logistics and economics around integration of local products, and shifting eating habits toward more nutritious foods.

It welcomes technical and institutional support for creation of an autonomous management structure for the program; financial and logistical support to shift toward local products and to improve school infrastructure including environmentally sustainable solutions; and training to improve human resources and modernize the programme's management.

Highlights

- Mobilizing financial and logistical resources to extend the program to lower secondary schools, demonstrating commitment to a universal school meals programme by 2030.
- Exploring local contracting and procurement techniques to ensure that food served through the programme increasingly comes from national production.
- Contributed to sharing good practices through hosting events such as the III International Seminar on Good Practices on School Feeding in the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP).

Senegal

Senegal joined the Coalition in July 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of National Education in October 2023 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Senegal is committed to extending school meals coverage to 65% of public elementary schools, prioritizing those in disadvantaged peri-urban areas. 2025 marked a milestone in this effort: a budget increase from USD 2.5 million (CFA 1.5 billion) to USD 8.3 million (CFA 5 billion).

- The government has initiated the following structural reforms to strengthen the programme:
- Preparations, supported by a multisectoral group, for a national policy on Home Grown School Feeding.
 - Revision of the national school feeding policy and development of a strategic plan for its implementation, to be validated in the summer of 2025.
 - Development of standard national operating procedures for hygiene, safety, and nutrition.

The School Feeding Monitoring System in Senegal (SASSE) is operationalized and accessible to stakeholders, with canteen managers and planners now trained in its use and 2025 data entry underway. This tool will allow for real-time monitoring of program performance, decision-making based on reliable data, and coordination between stakeholders.

The government is working to secure support from the Islamic Development Bank to strengthen sustainable local supply for school canteens. Connecting small-scale producers to canteens, while not yet fully realized, remains a priority to strengthen rural economies and the nutritional quality of school meals.

Next steps

Next steps include validation of the school feeding policy and strategic plan and strengthening coordination between the Ministries involved (Education, Agriculture, Health, Finance) around the vision of a sustainable school meals programme based on local production.

Efforts are underway to address regional disparities around accessibility of local products and availability of technical skills that present challenges in standardizing quality and meal composition. Additional goals include strengthening the School Feeding Monitoring System database and collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure a network of small producers that can meet the logistical and qualitative requirements of public procurement.

The government welcomes targeted technical support to finalize the policy framework and guidelines, strengthen local governance, support the agriculture sector, strengthen information and data, and carry out advocacy and resource mobilization to fully fund the programme.

Highlights

- Committed to extending school meals coverage to 65% of public elementary schools, prioritizing those in disadvantaged peri-urban areas.
- 2025 marked a milestone in this effort, with a budget increase from USD 2.5 million (CFA 1.5 billion) to USD 8.3 million (CFA 5 billion).
- School Feeding Monitoring System in Senegal (SASSE) operationalized, allowing canteen managers and planners to conduct real-time monitoring of program performance and decision-making based on reliable data.

Somalia

Somalia joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) in March 2022 through the Ministry of Education. The commitment was updated in June 2025. Somalia provided commitments in the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Somalia has made progress in almost all aspects of its commitment, attributed to the motivation around school meals given the government’s involvement in the Coalition coupled with renewed political will and high-level institutional buy-in. Highlights include:

- A National School Meals Policy has been developed and is being finalized for ministerial and cabinet endorsements. The government has also made school meals a central priority of the newly adopted National Transformation Plan (2025-2029).
- Expanded capacity on school meals at the Ministry of Education.
- Discussions to ensure school meals are included in Somalia’s annual budget for 2026.
- School meals champions from government and the private sector who have been mobilized by the Ministry of Education.

Next steps

While financing was not included on Somalia’s initial commitment, the government plans to include it in an updated commitment.

Challenges faced include gaps in the following areas: funding, technical expertise (for example, to develop a multi-year financing strategy for school meals), capacity development for school meals and support staff, technology, and infrastructure.

Highlights

- School meals a central priority of the newly adopted National Transformation Plan (2025-2029).
- Expansion of school meals capacity at Ministry of Education.
- Working to ensure school meals are included in 2026 budget.

South Sudan



South Sudan joined the Coalition in November 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of General Education & Instruction in November 2022 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

South Sudan has enacted a modest increase in the national education budget including proposals to increase the budget for school meals ranging from 1.2% to 1.9% at both national and state levels. The government has allocated USD 26,900 (SSP 35 million) to seven national secondary schools to strengthen school meals and has received USD 1.6 million from the Global Partnership for Education to support the programme.

The government has developed and disseminated National School Screening and Referral Guidelines on school health and nutrition and operational guidelines on school feeding with complementary training for schools on their implementation.

Multi-sectoral coordination platforms have been established at the national and sub-national levels to monitor implementation and share progress.

A Home-Grown School Feeding programme has been launched and is currently reaching over 180,000 students with support from development partners. It includes capacity-building initiatives for small-scale producers and female farmers to enhance community ownership and stimulate rural economic development. The government has also introduced the “Take Farm to School” initiative to link school feeding to agricultural productivity, with a pilot in 54 schools.

Next steps

Challenges identified include:

- Inadequate domestic financing due to fiscal constraints.
- Limited logistics capacity to reach remote schools.
- Climate variability and impacts on local food production.

Support and partnerships are needed to address these challenges and technical assistance needs around supply chain development, monitoring and evaluation, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Highlights

- Home Grown School Feeding programme launched and reaching over 180,000 students with support from development partners.
- Capacity-development initiatives for small-scale producers and female farmers to enhance community ownership and stimulate rural economic development.
- Introduction of “Take Farm to School” initiative to link school feeding to agricultural productivity, with a pilot in 54 schools.

Tanzania



Tanzania joined the Coalition in September 2022 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in May 2024 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Provision of nutritious food through school meals has been included in the 2025 draft National Nutrition Policy and its implementation strategy. The policy also focuses on strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of school meals programmes to enhance quality.

Tanzania’s national budget for school meals increased from USD 54 million (TZS 140.4 billion) in 2023-2024 to USD 77.8 million (TZS 202.3 billion) in 2024-2025 due to the increased number of students in boarding secondary and special needs schools who are receiving school meals. The percentage of students in public primary and secondary schools receiving meals through community initiatives and stakeholder support, including parents, increased from 56% to 61% during the same time.

The government is working toward adoption of the Southern African Development Community School Meals Guidelines, though oversight and guidance from its High-Level Steering Committee for Nutrition.

It has established a National School Feeding Technical Working Group comprised of members from key sectors, which met for the first time in October 2024 and has also held national consultation meetings with representatives across sectors.

A National School Meals Conference has been established as a platform for convening school meals stakeholders and raising awareness on an annual basis.

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, has supported the agenda through additional initiatives such as including school meals in the Nutrition Compact with all regional commissioners.

Next steps

Priorities moving forward include strengthening supply chains to support local production and distribution and improving infrastructure for food storage, preparation, and distribution of meals, as well as meal quality and diversity. Tanzania would benefit from support to address these priorities and to build awareness campaigns about the benefits of nutritious school meals, strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems, and conduct studies to identify region-specific gaps and monitor program effectiveness.

Highlights

- Budget increased from USD 54 million (TZS 140.4 billion) in 2023-2024 to USD 77.8 million (TZS 202.3 billion) in 2024-2025.
- Establishment of National School Meals Conference, a platform for convening school meals stakeholders and raising awareness on an annual basis.
- Support from the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, through additional initiatives such as inclusion of school meals in Nutrition Compact with all regional commissioners.

Uganda

Uganda joined the Coalition in November 2023 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education and Sports in April 2024 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

- The government is developing a National School Feeding Policy.
- Preliminary discussions have begun on a budget allocation for school meals, with USD 131,600 (UGX 500 million) budgeted for coordination and monitoring purposes.
- Initial draft National School Feeding Guidelines have been developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including to align them with international standards.
- A National School Feeding Working Group was approved in May 2024 and inaugurated in August 2024.
- To develop a National School Feeding Data Collection and Management System, a School Feeding Baseline Survey is being developed and pilot programs for digital data collection have been initiated in select schools in Karamoja.
- The government has developed a 2025 joint work plan involving all school meals stakeholders, including from government, non-government organizations and the private sector, initiating an annual exercise.

Next steps

Challenges include: uncertainty around securing public funding due to competing priorities; lack of infrastructure in rural schools; inadequate infrastructure including kitchens and storage facilities; weak tracking of food quality and quantity; and limited data for planning, budgeting and evaluation.

The government would benefit from technical support for programme design, development of a digitized school feeding platform, and a school meals financing strategy.

Highlights

- Developing a National School Feeding Policy and preliminary discussions on a budget allocation for school meals, with USD 131,600 (UGX 500 million) budgeted for coordination and monitoring purposes.
- 2025 joint work plan involving all school meals stakeholders, including from government, non-government organizations and the private sector, initiating an annual exercise.

Zambia

Zambia joined the Coalition in February 2022 and submitted its commitment in September 2022 through the Ministry of Education around the following areas: Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

The Government has developed a five-year scale-up plan for the Home-Grown School Meals programme to cover all 116 districts, as outlined in the 8th National Development Plan. The programme has expanded from 70 to 106 districts since Zambia joined the Coalition and is currently reaching 4.6 million out of 6.6 million learners.

To integrate nutrition into the HGSM programme, the government has developed a diversification plan that promotes localized menus, supported by a local procurement strategy linking smallholder farmers to the programme.

The government also developed a HGSM strategy as a framework to guide multisectoral coordination at the district, provincial, and national levels including establishing School Health and Nutrition Directorate with dedicated staff responsible for overseeing effective programme implementation. The strategy is currently under review to address emerging issues, including those related to the programme's ongoing expansion.

A Food Tracking System is being piloted to support accountability and evidence-based decision-making and over the next five years, the government plans to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to track school health and nutrition indicators.

To support South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the government has facilitated learning exchanges, including a visit by a Libyan government delegation to observe the design and implementation of Zambia's Home-Grown School Meals programme. In 2023, the government participated in a knowledge management exercise on good practices, facilitated by the WFP Abidjan Centre of Excellence, followed by a 2024 study on Home-Grown School Meals best practices conducted by Columbia University. It has also engaged in regional forums on school meals, both sharing and learning best practices.

Next steps

The government has made significant progress though gaps remain including inadequate funding and the need to further develop a robust monitoring and evaluation system, fully integrate smallholder farmers to operationalize a decentralized procurement system and strengthen infrastructure. It is looking forward to participating in Coalition initiatives such as the Technical Assistance Facility and the Sustainable Financing Initiative to enhance the quality and long-term sustainability of the programme.

Highlights

- Programme has expanded from 70 to 106 districts and is currently reaching 4.6 million out of 6.6 million learners coupled with increased yearly government budgetary allocation to the HGSM programme since 2022.
- Development of a diversification plan that promotes localized menus supported by a local procurement strategy linking smallholder farmers to the programme.
- Food Tracking System being piloted to support accountability and evidence-based decision-making.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe joined the Coalition in June 2022.

Achievements

After a Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) was adopted in 2016, the Government put in place several policies and strategies to support implementation: the Social Protection Pillar of the National Development Strategy 1 (2020-2025) and the Multi-sectorial Food and Nutrition Strategy 2023-2025. A major goal of the latter is to strengthen linkages between the Ministries responsible for Education, Agriculture, Health, Social Welfare, Finance, Women Affairs and Youth. Operational guidelines for the Programme have been in place since 2019.

In 2025, legislation (Statutory Instrument 13 of 2025) mandated all schools to provide at least one hot meal per day, overseen by the Ministry of Health and Child Care. A budget of USD 4,410,929 million (ZiG 121,080,000.00) was allocated by the Government to finance the programme, complemented by funding from development partners. Schools are mandated to come up with School Business Units (SBU) to support the programme's sustainability, such as nutrition gardens, livestock rearing, orchards and small projects through commercial ventures.

Additional steps included a Food Safety Standards Guidelines completed in 2021 and School Nutrition Guidelines developed by the Ministries responsible for Education and Health in 2022.

The Government has also made school meals a priority of the Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Committees at the national, provincial and district levels. Quarterly reports on implementation of the HGSFP, with indicators on the number of schools providing school meals and the number of learners receiving them, are fed into the National Development Strategy 1.

The Government is implementing the HGSFP in 8014 primary schools, school heads are mandated to implement the programme and District School Inspectors monitor it.

Senior government officials across relevant ministries have also been trained on School Meal Planning, and the School Meal Planning plus (SMP+) online menu creation platform was created to support cost-efficient nutritious local menus.

Government officials were trained on a sustainable procurement model and pilots were initiated to explore a combination of provincial and school level procurement based on lessons learned from other countries.

Next steps

- Explore sustainable funding models.
- Prioritize local procurement to support local farmers, reduce transport costs and promote community engagement for ownership and accountability.
- Ensure meals are nutritiously balanced.
- Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system, provide training and strengthen multisectoral linkages.
- Continued exploration of steps to optimize Homegrown School Feeding.

Highlights

- USD 4,410,929 million (ZiG 121,080,000) allocated to finance the programme, complemented by funding from development partners and commercial ventures such as nutrition gardens, livestock rearing and orchards.
- Programme being implemented in 8014 primary schools, monitored by school health coordinators and regularly evaluated by District and School Inspectors.
- Government officials trained on sustainable procurement and pilots initiated to explore combination of provincial and school level procurement based on lessons learned from other countries.

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