



Coalition reaches 150 partners milestone

The School Meals Coalition continues to grow, with 112 Member States, 6 regional bodies, and with the addition of our newest partner, ICRISAT, the Coalition has reached 150 partners. These members and partners are working together to ensure that every child has access to nutritious meals.

[The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics \(ICRISAT\)](#) - part of the global research partnership CGIAR - is committed to developing and improving dryland farming and agri-food systems to address the challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty and environmental degradation affecting the 2.1 billion people residing in the drylands of Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

Highlights

Race to COP30: School meals as climate-smart investments



In the province of Batha in Chad, more than 300 women grow a variety of vegetables such as okra, tomatoes, aubergines, garlic and onions. These vegetables are used primarily to supply the village

school canteen. The rest of the vegetables are divided equally between the families for their own consumption. © WFP/Asma Achahboun

The 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, to be held between 10-21 November, presents an important moment to position school meals as a climate-smart investment, connecting millions of schools to local farmers and food systems. With over [466 million children](#) reached worldwide and [99% of financing from domestic budgets](#), school meals account for [70 percent](#) of publicly managed food systems. They have the potential to reduce emissions, promote regenerative farming, empower women and youth, and build resilience against extreme weather shocks - while delivering health, nutrition and education. Anchored in national ownership, school meals demonstrate how local solutions drive global impact.

Key COP30 resource for Coalition members and partners:

Advocacy messaging brief on school meals as climate-smart investments [available here.](#)

It provides key messages, facts and figures, and recommendations for action at COP30 and beyond for speaking engagements and meetings. Visit our [dedicated COP30 page](#) for school meal related event updates.

Please share your school meal related events at COP30 so we can amplify at global.SMCcommunications@wfp.org



Facts and Figures

Powering school meals with clean energy: A smart investment for people and planet

School kitchens present a practical opportunity to scale clean cooking solutions, particularly in [low-income countries](#) where meals are prepared on charcoal or wood stoves. Pilot studies in Kenya, Rwanda and Lesotho show e-cooking can cut cooking costs by [60–90%](#), halve cooking time and create safer working conditions for staff. Read more about the activities currently in [Malawi](#).



School meals in action

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Global Forum 2025: Cities Feeding the Future championing school meals



Experts from around the world joined the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Global Forum to present evidence on how school meals are advancing education, nutrition, social protection and local economies. From left to right: Ottavia Pieretto, School Meals Officer, Milan Urban Food Policy Pact; Andrea Magarini, Food Policy Director, Municipality of Milan; Serena Duraccio, Asia Pacific Officer, Milan Urban Food Policy Pact; Espedito Nastro, School Meals Coalition Data and Monitoring Initiative; Maria José Rojas, Head of the School Meals Coalition Secretariat; Anna Scavuzzo, Vice Mayor of Milan; Giorgio Mariani, Milano Ristorazione; Filippo Gavazzeni, Director, Milan Urban Food Policy Pact; Lúdia Andrade Lourinho, Secretary for Early Childhood, Municipality of Fortaleza; Papa Mamadou Fam, President of the Rufisque Departmental Council; Julienne Alyson Rae Veloso, City Councillor of Quezon City; Gautier Chapuis, Deputy Mayor of Lyon

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) celebrated its 10th anniversary at the Global Forum 2025 in Milan on 16 October, celebrating a decade of city-led progress in transforming urban food systems. Over 330 signatory cities, representing 500 million people, reflected on achievements and shared future commitments.

At the Global Forum 2025 and as part of the [Coalition's Cities Feeding the Future initiative](#), city leaders from the MUFPP and the School Meals Coalition gathered to promote school meals as drivers of health, inclusion and climate resilience. Following the announcement in Fortaleza at the 2nd Global Summit, the session unveiled new Champion Mayors from Bandung, Fortaleza, Lyon, Quezon City, Rufisque, and Semarang, shared updates from the State of School Feeding Worldwide 2024 report and the urban perspective to the Global Database on School Meals. At the same time the session highlighted global initiatives to improve school meal systems through data, research, and sustainable financing. Find out more about the session [here](#).

World Food Day 2025: Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future

This year's theme reminded us that building a healthier, more sustainable world starts with what's on our plates - and how we work together to get it there. From local farms to global classrooms, nutritious food fuels learning, growth and opportunity. See how school meals are changing lives around the world in this inspiring video: [Watch here](#).

[In Conversation](#): Assistant Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Valerie Guarnieri and Professor Donald Bundy on greener school meals

At last month's School Meals Coalition Global Summit in Brazil, WFP's Assistant Executive Director Valerie Guarnieri joined Professor Donald Bundy of the Coalition's Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition for a fireside conversation on the future of planet-friendly school meals. Their discussion highlighted the progress since COP28, where [food was first integrated into the climate agenda](#), and explored strategies such as diverse local menus, efficient cooking, waste reduction, and food education. They also shared upcoming plans for a new white paper and toolkit to support governments in advancing sustainable school meal programmes. [Watch the full session here](#), where ministers including representatives from Rwanda, Cambodia, and Guinea-Bissau also present powerful cases on their progress in national school meals implementation.



Mark your calendar

29 - 30 October > Peace Paris Forum

As global delegates gather at the [Peace Paris Forum](#) to explore “New Coalitions for Peace, People and the Planet,” [this framing paper](#) - developed by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) - offers a compelling example of how school meals in fragile and conflict-affected settings can act as stabilizing forces, fostering peace, social cohesion and resilience in communities facing crisis.

29 - 30 October > 16th Africa Day for Food & Nutrition Security – CADAAP 2026-2035, Kigali

This year’s Africa Day for Food & Nutrition Security, held in Kigali, focusses on accelerating just, resilient agrifood system transformation for nutrition and sustainable growth. The celebration is aligned with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) 2026–2035 strategy, which highlights school meals’ pivotal role in advancing food and nutrition security across the continent. [Find out more](#).

3 November > Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty Leaders' Summit, Doha

Held on the eve of the Second World Summit for Social Development, this high-level meeting will bring together heads of state and other global leaders to review progress, renew commitments, and accelerate action to end hunger and poverty. It marks the first official summit of the Global Alliance since its launch at last year’s G20 summit. A key focus will be on the Alliance's goal of ensuring high-quality school meals for an additional 150 million children by 2030. [Read more](#).

4 - 6 November > 2nd World Summit for Social Development, Doha

Marking 30 years since the Copenhagen Declaration, this high-level UN summit will bring together world leaders to renew commitments to social justice, poverty eradication, decent work and inclusive development. The summit aims to adopt a Political Declaration to accelerate progress toward the 2030 Agenda amid rising global inequalities and demographic shifts. There will be specific interventions focused on school meals. [Visit the event page](#) to learn more.

3 - 5 November > C40 World Mayors Summit, Rio de Janeiro

This global gathering of city leaders will showcase bold urban climate solutions, foster collaboration, and drive momentum ahead of COP30. Hosted by the C40 Cities network, the summit emphasizes local leadership in tackling climate-induced crises. The Mayor of Milan, as Chair of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, will represent the work of the Cities Feeding the Future

initiative in supporting municipalities in their responsibility of implementing school meal programmes. [Find out more](#) about the Summit.

11 - 13 November > Research Consortium's Annual Showcase

The Research Consortium will host Day 3: School Meals in Action – Becoming Public Policy as part of its Annual Showcase. The day will open with a fireside chat exploring the global scale of the school meals movement, followed by a panel presenting evidence from national programmes across Africa, the EU and Indonesia. The session will also highlight global tools and guidance supporting effective school meal policies, including nutrition standards, educational frameworks and data platforms. A spotlight on South Africa's exemplary programme will round out the day. [Find more information here.](#)

18 - 20 November > Global launch of UNESCO's 'Planning for healthy and thriving learners' programme

Join UNESCO and partners in Addis Ababa and online for the global launch of "Planning for Healthy and Thriving Learners," a coordinated programme to integrate health and well-being into education sector planning worldwide. The event features technical workshops (in person 18 - 19 November), ministerial dialogues (in person 20 November morning), and a global webinar (hybrid 20 November afternoon). This launch builds on [UNESCO's Strategy on Education for Health and Well-being](#) and the [Making Every School a Health-Promoting School initiative](#), and is advanced in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Group on School Health and Nutrition. To participate in the global webinar, [register here](#).

For those wishing to attend in person, contact a.ibraheem@unesco.org. In-person participation will be confirmed subject to availability.



In case you missed it

[Now Online](#): Watch the 2nd School Meals Coalition Global Summit Sessions

Missed the live event in Fortaleza? You can now catch up on all the powerful discussions from the 2nd School Meals Coalition Global Summit - available on [YouTube](#). From high-level commitments to innovative approaches in sustainable food systems, strategic financing, and the role of cities and partners, these sessions showcase how governments and organizations are working together to ensure every child receives a nutritious meal in school. Dive into the playlist and be inspired by the global momentum behind school meals!

World Food Forum 2025

The World Food Forum - a global event driven by youth, science, and innovation - was held in person and online hosted by FAO headquarters in Rome 10-17 October. It marked FAO's 80th anniversary with a week of dialogue, collaboration, and action to transform agrifood systems and advance progress. School Meals were featured in exhibitions during the event. [Learn more](#).

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

On 22 October, the side event "[Investing in the Future: Building Partnerships and Strengthening Financing for Healthier School Meals Programmes](#)" brought together diverse voices to explore how school meals can be a game-changer for child nutrition and resilient food systems. Through stories from [The Sustainable School Feeding Network \(RAES\)](#) and the School Meals Coalition, participants saw how smart investments and strong partnerships helped countries expand access to nutritious meals, improve governance, and build momentum toward the right to food for every child.



Resources

- Newest edition of the [State of School Feeding Worldwide](#): 466 million children reached (+80 million in 4 years); USD 84 billion invested (99% domestic).
- [The School Meals Coalition Global Database](#): featuring new elements introduced by the Data and Monitoring Initiative to make data more accessible, transparent, and actionable for policymakers and partners.
- University College London (UCL) Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (Mazzucato & Doyle): [A Mission Oriented Approach to School Meals](#): An Opportunity for Cross Departmental and Multi-Sector Industrial Strategy - School meals as a lever for innovation, sustainability and inclusive growth.
- [Home-Grown School Feeding: Case Studies on Procurement and Financing](#) – This special report by the Coalition's Sustainable Finance Initiative analyses procurement models and financing strategies for home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programmes, drawing on four case studies from Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Bolivia, Brazil, and Cambodia.



We Would Like to Hear from You!

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



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