



School Meals Coalition November 2025 Newsletter

New Members and Partners

The School Meals Coalition continues to grow, with 112 Member States, 6 regional bodies and over 150 partners working together to ensure every child has access to nutritious meals.

This month, we welcome two new partners:

AgriCorps: Builds future agricultural leaders through [school-based agriculture education](#), linking classrooms to local food systems and embedding agriculture in schools and policies to strengthen school meals.

We Effect: Active in 20 countries across Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa, supporting member-based organizations with a human rights approach. Their work empowers communities living in poverty to secure better living conditions and actively contributes to ensuring children's right to nutritious school meals.



Highlights

COP30 - Big wins in school meals



Delegates participate in the launch of the Platform on Clean Cooking in Schools, in Belém, Brazil, during COP30. Photo credit: SEforALL

At this month's UN climate talks - COP30 - school meals were recognized as a vital tool for advancing children's health, learning and social protection. Leaders committed to expanding access to nutritious meals, improving cooking facilities in schools and embedding school meals into national development strategies. Over 15 interventions and events were held during this year's conference. Highlights include:

- In the lead up to COP30, [The Doha Political Declaration](#) (adopted at the Second World Summit for Social Development) explicitly recognizes **school meals as part of universal social protection systems**. It highlights them as a tool to safeguard children's nutrition, ensure continuity of education during crises and strengthen community resilience.
- [The Belém Declaration](#), adopted at COP30 by 43 countries and the European Union, puts hunger, poverty and inequality at the centre of global action. It calls for stronger social protection and recognizes school meals as a guaranteed right - vital for education, local agriculture and protecting vulnerable children in crises. The announcement followed the first meeting of Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty leaders in Doha, Qatar. [Read the press release](#).
- The launch of [The Platform for Clean Cooking in Schools](#) led by Sustainable Energy for All and partners, represents a major step forward in clean cooking around the world. By supporting the School Meals Coalition's mission, the platform will help schools transition to modern cooking solutions, reducing harmful emissions, improving health outcomes and ensuring that nutritious meals can be prepared safely and sustainably for millions of children.



Facts and figures

Brazil raises family farm share in school meal programmes to 45%

The Government of Brazil approved a landmark law increasing the share of school meal resources sourced from family farms from 30% to 45% starting January 2026. The move strengthens the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), supporting local producers, promoting sustainable agriculture, boosting rural economies and improving the nutritional quality of meals. [Watch the opening session](#) of the School Meals Coalition Global Summit for Brazil's announcement.



School meals in action

Government of Ghana: All schools must purchase only locally produced rice, maize, eggs

Ghana's Minister of Finance, Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson, announced that President John Dramani Mahama has directed all basic and secondary schools across the country to purchase only locally produced foods. Presenting the 2026 Budget and Economic Policy Statement in Parliament on 13 November, Dr. Forson outlined the new policy requiring schools to source rice, maize, chicken and eggs exclusively from Ghanaian producers. [Watch video](#)

London Mayor celebrates 100 million free school meals

A scheme to provide free school meals to all state primary school children in London reached 100 million lunches. The scheme was introduced by Mayor of London Sir Sadiq Khan in 2023 to help families with rising living costs and he has since pledged to fund the scheme throughout his term in office. Each child has so far been provided with 435 free lunches on average, saving families up to £500 (US\$ \$658) a year per child, the mayor said. [Learn more](#)

HarvestPlus advances nutritious biofortified crops in school meals in Kenya

HarvestPlus hosted a learning event at Kamaget Secondary School, Bomet County, celebrating the Nutritious Home-Grown School Meals Project. With leaders including Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok and HarvestPlus CEO Arun Baral, the event showcased how biofortified Nyota iron-rich beans are improving nutrition, education and farming. In partnership with county governments and schools, HarvestPlus has supported over 550 schools in various counties to adopt biofortified beans and establish school gardens. [Read more](#)

World Diabetes Day: Prevention begins at the school table

Early nutrition and health education in schools can help reduce the risk of noncommunicable diseases later in life. Through programmes in the Marshall Islands, Mexico and Cambodia, learn how the World Diabetes Foundation works with governments and partners to strengthen school food environments and bring practical learning on nutrition and wellbeing into classrooms, helping children lead healthier futures. [Read more](#)



In case you missed it

Countries mobilize multi-partner support for national programmes against hunger and poverty

Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya and Zambia unveiled implementation plans, with financing and technical coordination support from the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty members, and working alongside international financial institutions, bilateral donors, UN agencies and philanthropies. Benin, Indonesia, Palestine and others are advancing commitments on school meals, cash transfers, maternal and child support, and economic inclusion worldwide. [Read more](#)

Planning for healthy and thriving learners

UNESCO's new global programme of work puts health and well-being at the core of education systems, turning global commitments into action. This interagency collaboration ensures a coordinated approach, bringing together expertise in education, health, nutrition and financing to strengthen impact worldwide. With practical tools and support from partners like UNICEF, WHO, WFP and the World Bank, it empowers schools to help learners thrive. [Read more](#)

Blog: A hand washes another hand - How Benin's country-led plan is redefining cooperation on school meals

[Benin](#) shows how strong national leadership and a domestic-first approach can turn school meals into a sustainable, nationally-owned and financed programme. The government has added complementary activities like support for women's groups and nutrition education, drawing on lessons from other countries. The Learning Generation and the National Agency for Food and Nutrition (ANAN) of Benin explain more in this [blog](#).



Resources

In the context of COP30's focus on food systems and climate resilience, these resources highlight how school meals can drive systemic transformation:

- [Special Report](#): Part of the State of School Feeding Worldwide, it links national school meal programmes with food systems, showing how public food procurement can address climate, biodiversity and food sovereignty challenges.
 - [White Paper](#): Insights from the Coalition's Research Consortium on how school meals strengthen local agriculture, reduce food waste and promote sustainable diets, supported by global case studies.
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We Would Like to Hear from You!

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