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France

MEMBER SINCE SEPTEMBER 2021

France has made significant progress in advancing school meals through global advocacy, sustained financing, research and innovation, and strengthened national standards for nutrition and sustainability. Its efforts have contributed to expanding support for school meals worldwide while enhancing the quality, accessibility and educational value of school meals in France.

Programme Design and Coverage

- France continues to strengthen the quality and sustainability of school meals through nutrition standards, regulated portion sizes, and targets for sustainable and organic food procurement.
- The requirement to offer at least one vegetarian meal per week is now widely implemented, with 96.7% of reporting schools complying in 2025.
- France promotes food education through the Taste Classes programme, which helps schools foster healthy eating habits and food literacy.

Financing

- Since 2021, France has mobilized nearly EUR 150 million to support school feeding programmes worldwide, primarily through the World Food Programme, including projects implemented in 20 countries in 2025.
- France has also promoted access to school feeding within its own territory through a rural school canteen support scheme, benefiting more than 1,900 municipalities and 5,000 primary schools.

Advocacy and Partnership

- France continues to play a leading role in the School Meals Coalition through high-level advocacy in the G7, G20, European Union and United Nations, and by financing an International Technical Expert within the World Food Programme's School Meals Division.
- Through the French School Meals Network (RESCO), research institutions and local authorities, France has strengthened knowledge-sharing and international collaboration on school meals, including through the promotion of the *Chouette Cantine* approach.

Evidence and Data Generation

- France has strengthened its contribution to global school meals research through leading research institutions and the UNESCO Chair World Food, generating new research and international collaborations on nutrition and sustainable food systems.
- The French School Meals Network (RESCO), which brings together more than 100 members, has documented and disseminated good practices through case studies, international exchanges and a community of practice.

Next Steps

- Finalize updated nutrition standards for school meals and support their implementation nationwide.
- Strengthen sustainable procurement practices, food waste reduction and the use of quality food products through the ma cantine platform and other support mechanisms.
- Expand the €1 school canteen scheme to improve access to affordable school meals while supporting sustainable sourcing objectives.
- Continue promoting healthy eating through the European School Fruit, Vegetables and Milk Scheme.