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Nairobi, Kenya. © WFP/Lisa Murray.

Country Progress Reports 2026

School Meals Coalition

Data and Monitoring Initiative

Learn more about the
School Meals Coalition
schoolmealscoalition.org

Introduction

Governments around the world are taking meaningful steps to make school meals a national priority, recognizing their contribution to education, health, and their multiplying benefits across sectors contributing to national development.

Through the School Meals Coalition, countries are working towards a shared goal: ensuring every child has access to a healthy, nutritious school meal.

This document highlights the progress made by Task Force governments. Each country presents key achievements across areas such as advocacy and partnerships, evidence and data, financing, institutional and policy reform, programme design, and coverage expansion.

Together, these achievements show how countries are turning political commitment into action. While each country follows its own path, all are contributing to the Coalition's shared goals. They offer an opportunity to learn from country experiences, exchange ideas, and inspire further action.

The collection is not only a celebration of achievements, but also an invitation to work together towards a future where every child can thrive through school meals.

Learn more

Brazil

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Brazil continues to strengthen its National School Meals Programme (PNAE) through stronger nutrition standards, increased investment in family farming, expanded food and nutrition education, and innovative procurement approaches. By advancing healthier and more sustainable school meal systems while promoting international cooperation and regional partnerships, Brazil is demonstrating leadership both nationally and globally.

Programme Design and Coverage

- Strengthened nutrition standards by increasing the share of fresh and minimally processed foods to at least 85% of school meal purchases and limiting processed and ultra-processed foods to 10%.
- Expanded food and nutrition education activities, promoting healthy diets, sustainability, local food cultures, and awareness of food systems.
- Promoted sustainable and culturally appropriate school meals through local procurement, support to traditional food systems, and initiatives to diversify school menus.
- Advanced actions to improve food quality, reduce waste, and encourage healthier eating habits among students.

Financing

- Increased the share of school feeding resources allocated to family farming from 30% to up to 45%, strengthening local food systems and expanding market opportunities for smallholder producers.
- Increased federal investment in the National School Meals Programme by 14.35% between 2023-2025 and introduced targeted funding measures to better support vulnerable populations and territories.

Governance and Coordination

- Expanded support and training for family farmers, nutrition professionals, and local stakeholders to strengthen programme implementation.
- Improved procurement processes through digital tools and updated regulations, facilitating participation by family farmers and traditional communities.

Advocacy and Partnership

- Promoted healthy eating and food education through national campaigns, capacity-building initiatives, and knowledge-sharing activities.
- Strengthened South-South cooperation and international exchanges, sharing Brazil's experience in school meals with countries across Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.
- Advanced regional collaboration on sustainable school meals in Latin America and the Caribbean, supporting greater engagement with the School Meals Coalition.

Next Steps

- Strengthen equity-focused approaches across all stages of school meal programme implementation.
- Scale up the Year of Fish in School Meals initiative, reflecting regional diversity and local food systems.



Finland

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Finland continues to demonstrate global leadership on school meals through advocacy, financing, technical cooperation and active engagement in the School Meals Coalition. Building on its long-standing experience with school meals, Finland is committed to school meals programmes nationally and globally, strengthening international partnerships, and sharing knowledge and good practices to advance sustainable, high-quality school meal systems.

Programme Design and Coverage

- Finland continues to implement school meal procurement criteria that promote nutrition, food safety, environmentally sustainable food production and animal welfare.
- School meals are complemented by food education and student participation in meal planning, implementation and evaluation, reinforcing their educational and nutritional value.

Financing

- Finland remains a strong supporter of the global school meals agenda. In 2026, the Government contributed €4 million to World Food Programme school meals programmes, with a focus on fragile contexts, and €500,000 to the School Meals Coalition Secretariat.

Advocacy and Partnership

- Finland continues to provide global leadership for the School Meals Coalition through high-level advocacy and diplomatic engagement. As Coalition Champion and Co-Chair, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Ville Tavio has promoted school meals at major international events and across multilateral fora.
- Finland co-leads the Coalition's Task Force, co-chairs its Working Group, and actively supports partnerships, knowledge exchange, research and country engagement initiatives.

Evidence and Data Generation

- Finland continues to share technical expertise and good practices with countries seeking to strengthen school meals programmes through study visits, peer learning and international exchanges. Drawing on decades of experience, Finland promotes knowledge sharing on nutrition, policy development, programme implementation and the educational role of school meals.

Next Steps

- Finland continues to actively update and implement its national nutrition recommendations for school meals, shifting towards a plant-forward, sustainable, and health-centric approach.
- Finland provides continuous financial and strategic school meal programmes support globally through partnerships with the World Food Programme and its leadership role in the School Meals Coalition as well as bilaterally.

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France

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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.

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Guatemala

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Guatemala has strengthened its school meals programme through expanded coverage, reinforced institutional coordination and active participation in regional and global school meals initiatives. Key achievements include reaching more than 3 million learners nationwide, strengthening governance and nutrition mechanisms, and promoting knowledge exchange through international partnerships and peer learning.

Programme Design and Coverage

- Guatemala's School Feeding Programme has expanded coverage to all levels of public education, including early childhood, pre-primary, primary and secondary education.
- In 2026, the programme reached more than 3 million children and adolescents nationwide.
- The Ministry of Education has promoted a return to meals prepared and served directly in schools, while maintaining nutrition standards that ensure varied, nutritious and culturally appropriate diets.

Governance and Coordination

- Guatemala has strengthened governance of the school meals programme through an Inter-Institutional School Feeding Commission, bringing together the education, health, agriculture and finance sectors, as well as food security and planning institutions, to oversee implementation and improve programme delivery.
- An Inter-Institutional Nutritionists Commission continues to develop the nutritional criteria that guide the programme.

Evidence and Data Generation

- Guatemala has actively participated in School Meals Coalition consultations, regional school feeding forums and ministerial meetings, contributing to international knowledge exchange on school meals.
- Through its membership in the Sustainable School Feeding Network (RAES), Guatemala continues to share experiences and good practices with other countries.
- In 2025, Guatemala hosted a delegation from Belize to showcase the implementation of its School Feeding Programme and facilitate peer learning.

Next Steps

- Implement the School Infrastructure Maintenance Programme to improve school kitchen facilities and create better conditions for meal preparation.
- Advance the development of a programme to provide schools with essential kitchen equipment and utensils, strengthening their capacity to prepare and serve meals onsite.



Honduras

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Honduras has made important progress in strengthening its school meals programme through expanded coverage, stronger partnerships, enhanced multisectoral coordination and progress toward a National School Feeding Policy. The country has also advanced integrated approaches linking school meals with health, nutrition, local food systems and school infrastructure improvements, while increasing engagement with development partners to support programme implementation and sustainability.

Programme Design and Coverage

- Programme coverage has been expanded to Grade 9, reaching all pre-primary and primary education centers nationwide.
- National stakeholders have been mobilized to strengthen the programme through school infrastructure improvements, food and nutrition education, and links with health services.
- The Government is reintroducing fresh food rations through local procurement from smallholder farmers, increasing the availability of fruits, vegetables and protein-rich foods in school meals.
- Two annual deworming campaigns continue to be implemented, reaching approximately 1.8 million children across the national education system.

Financing

- Honduras has strengthened engagement with financing partners, including the Inter-American Development Bank, to address food insecurity in schools across 74 municipalities of the Dry Corridor, supporting more than 275,000 children.

Policy

- Honduras has advanced the development of a National School Feeding Policy, with a final draft prepared under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Development.

Governance and Coordination

- Honduras has strengthened multisectoral coordination through partnerships across the education, health and rural development sectors, supporting school meals, school gardens and food and nutrition security initiatives.

Advocacy and Partnership

- Honduras has expanded collaboration with the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, Partners of the Americas and other partners to support implementation of the National School Feeding Programme.

Next Steps

- Roll out fresh food rations and school milk through inter-municipal associations to decentralize programme implementation and strengthen local food systems.
- Complete the assessment of school conditions nationwide to guide infrastructure improvements and programme planning.
- Develop and implement tailored strategies to improve access to school meals and related services for children and young people with disabilities.

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Japan

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Japan continues to advance its school meal commitments through international cooperation, technical assistance, support for school meals programmes, and the promotion of Shokuiku (food and nutrition education). By sharing its experience in school meal policy and implementation, Japan helps strengthen nutritious and sustainable school meal systems globally, while supporting countries through partnerships, knowledge exchange and financing.

Programme Design and Coverage

- Japan continues to strengthen the quality of its school meal system through national nutrition standards, the promotion of locally sourced foods, dedicated support for food and nutrition education, and the integration of Shokuiku (food and nutrition education) into school learning and school meals programmes.

Financing

- Through its partnership with the World Food Programme, Japan has supported school meals programmes in Africa and Asia, including in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Timor-Leste, helping address child malnutrition and improve access to education.

Advocacy and Partnership

- Japan has supported the implementation and improvement of school meals programmes through technical cooperation, training and knowledge exchange with countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Burkina Faso and Kenya. Japan has also promoted Shokuiku through international cooperation initiatives and high-profile global events, including the Osaka Kansai Expo 2025, Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) 2026 and the Africa Day of School Feeding 2026.

Evidence and Data Generation

- Japan continues to share expertise on school meal policy, institutional design, operational management and Shokuiku through training programmes and technical cooperation projects involving governments from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Ukraine and Mongolia.

Next Steps

- Japan continues to share its advanced school lunch systems with partner countries in accordance with their interest, and contributes to their school meals programmes where possible.



Kenya

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Kenya has made significant progress in strengthening its school meals programme through policy reforms, enhanced coordination, expanded coverage and innovative approaches to sustainable funding. Key milestones include the approval of the National School Meals Policy, the establishment of the National Chapter of the School Meals Coalition, and efforts to strengthen links between school meals, local food systems and environmental sustainability.

Programme Design and Coverage

- Kenya has expanded its national school meals programme from 1.9 million children in 2023 to more than 3.2 million in 2026, with a goal of universal coverage by 2030.
- Kenya is advancing innovations to improve the quality and sustainability of school meals. Pilot initiatives are strengthening links between schools and smallholder farmers through aggregator models, clean cooking solutions, school gardens and 4-K Clubs (“Kuungana, Kufanya, Kusaidia Kenya” or “Join together, to act, to help Kenya”) are helping create stronger links between school meals, nutrition, local food production and environmental sustainability. Progress is also being made to integrate school meals into the Kenya Education Management Information System (KEMIS) to enhance monitoring, reporting and planning.

Governance and Coordination

- Kenya established the National Chapter of the School Meals Coalition, the country’s first multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to school meals. In its first year, the Chapter drove progress on policy, financing, partner coordination, local food procurement, clean cooking and inclusion, helping align stakeholders behind the national scale-up agenda.

Policy

- The National School Meals Policy was approved in 2026 following extensive stakeholder consultations, strengthening the framework for implementation and institutionalization of school meals. Kenya also completed a Sustainable Financing Strategy study to identify pathways for programme expansion and sustainability in the long term.

Next Steps

- To advance implementation and sustainable financing, the National Chapter has established a committee to assess and recommend sustainable financing options such as blended finance, domestic resource mobilization, climate finance, private sector engagement and other innovative mechanisms.
- A national School Meals Programme Summit is planned to position school meals as an investment in human capital and sustainable development, align stakeholders and mobilize resources towards the goal of reaching 10 million children.
- The National Chapter will continue mapping partners and strengthening reporting through the national coordination mechanism to improve visibility of coverage, resources and gaps, while enhancing transparency, accountability and collective action.

Learn more

Rwanda

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Rwanda has made significant progress in advancing its national school feeding programme through reaching universal coverage, increased government investment, strengthened governance and innovative approaches to programme delivery. The country is also promoting nutrition, sustainability and evidence-based decision-making through reforms in procurement, research, clean cooking and sustainable food systems.

Programme Design and Coverage

- Since 2021, Rwanda has expanded school feeding from 874,244 learners to universal coverage, reaching more than 4.5 million learners across public pre-primary, primary and secondary schools in 2026.
- Rwanda has introduced centralized procurement of long shelf-life commodities, while schools continue sourcing fresh foods locally. The country is also piloting a centralized kitchen model serving more than 30,000 learners and has established a Clean Cooking Taskforce to support the transition to cleaner and more efficient cooking solutions.

Policy

- Rwanda revised its National School Feeding Operational Guidelines in 2025 to reflect updated procurement modalities, food prices and nutritional requirements.

Governance and Coordination

- Governance and coordination mechanisms have been strengthened through national and decentralized school feeding committees, district school feeding coordinators and the establishment of the Directorate for School Health and Wellness within the Ministry of Education.

Financing

- Government investment has supported the programme expansion, with funding increasing from RWF 8 billion (USD 5.4 million) in 2021 to RWF 142 billion (USD 97 million) in 2026. A dedicated budget line and School Feeding Financing Strategy are helping strengthen long-term programme sustainability.

Evidence and Data Generation

- Rwanda continues to invest in research and learning on programme effectiveness, biofortification and value for money, while promoting peer learning through exchange visits and the East Africa School Meals Coalition Network.

Next Steps

- Expand centralized kitchens and integrate clean cooking technologies to improve efficiency, food safety, meal quality and sustainability.
- Increase access to nutritious, diverse, fortified and biofortified foods.
- To strengthen links between school meals and sustainable food systems through home-grown school feeding, regenerative agriculture, agroecology, climate-smart agriculture, circular food systems, school gardens and local procurement.



Senegal

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Senegal has advanced its national school meals agenda through the validation of a National School Meals Policy and Strategic Plan, progress toward adopting legislation on locally sourced school meals, and the mobilization of major investments to expand coverage and strengthen programme sustainability.

Programme Design and Coverage

- School meals have been elevated as a priority under Senegal's 2025-2029 Government Action Plan. To support the expansion and strengthening of the programme, the Ministry of National Education is preparing two major initiatives: a government-funded School Canteen Development Project and a USD 25 million School Canteens and Advanced Technologies for the Empowerment of Local Communities Project, designed to promote innovative, sustainable and resilient school meals systems.

Policy

- Senegal has validated its National School Meals Policy based on local production and the accompanying strategic plan, providing a framework for the implementation and scale-up of locally sourced school meals.
- A draft law on school meals based on local production has been developed and submitted by the Ministry of National Education to the Government for adoption and subsequent consideration by the National Assembly.

Financing

- School meals have been recognized as a national priority within Senegal's 2025-2029 development agenda, reflecting increased government commitment to financing and sustaining the programme.
- Significant resources have been mobilized through a fully government-funded School Canteen Development Project and a USD 25 million programme co-financed by the Government of Senegal, the Islamic Development Bank, the World Food Programme and Secours Islamique France.
- In partnership with the World Food Programme, the Ministry of National Education has also developed a USD 25 million project to strengthen food resilience among vulnerable populations and support sustainable local procurement for school meals.

Next Steps

- Senegal will continue strengthening multisectoral coordination to enhance alignment and delivery across the national school meals programme.
- Efforts will be intensified to harmonize and implement school meal quality standards nationwide.
- The Government will seek to mobilize additional resources from local authorities, the private sector and development partners to support sustainable programme expansion.
- The School Feeding Monitoring System (SASSE) will be further strengthened to improve data quality, monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.
- Support will continue for local stakeholders and producer organizations to strengthen local supply chains and increase the availability of quality locally produced foods for schools.

Learn more

Sweden

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Sweden continues to strengthen its long-standing school meals system through universal coverage, enhanced nutrition and sustainability standards, and expanded participation in the EU School Scheme. Recent achievements include the introduction of the school fruit and vegetable component, updated national school meal guidelines, and continued support to municipalities in delivering high-quality school meals that promote health, learning and sustainable food systems.

Programme Design and Coverage

- Sweden expanded its participation in the EU School Scheme by introducing the fruit and vegetable component in the 2025-2026 school year, complementing its long-standing participation in the school milk scheme. The revised scheme is expected to reach approximately 1.1 million pupils in compulsory education.
- Sweden continues to provide free and nutritious school meals to all children in compulsory education. In the 2025-2026 school year, approximately 1.94 million children, pupils and students received free school meals across preschool, compulsory and upper secondary education.
- The Swedish National Food Agency continues to support municipalities through its Competence Center for Public Meals, promoting the holistic “Meal Model,” which integrates nutrition, sustainability, food safety, wellbeing and educational value into school meal provision.
- In 2026, Sweden updated its National Guidelines for School Meals, strengthening guidance on nutrition, sustainability, procurement, preparedness and the integration of school meals into the educational environment. Nationwide webinars and implementation support are helping translate the updated guidance into practice.

Advocacy and Partnership

- Sweden remains an active member of the UN Rome-Based Agencies network and continues to contribute to international dialogue and knowledge exchange on school meals and sustainable food systems.

United States of America (USA)

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The United States is a longstanding supporter of school meals worldwide. This continued commitment is evident through the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. Since its launch in 2003, the programme has supported school meals in more than 50 countries, benefiting over 35 million children worldwide. By investing in school meals, nutrition, education, and national capacity, the programme helps countries strengthen and sustain school meal systems that improve the well-being and learning outcomes of millions of children.

Programme Design and Coverage

- The McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program statutory objectives are the following: reduce hunger, and improve literacy, primary education, and nutrition for millions of children in low-income, food-deficit countries around the globe.
- Interventions span food security, education, and child development, supporting pregnant and lactating women, infants, and pre-school children to sustain and improve their health and learning capacity before they enter school.
- The Program provides nutritious U.S. agricultural commodities from American farmers, ranchers, and producers alongside financial and technical assistance to strengthen national school feeding capacity, and support multi-year school feeding projects
- This includes support for complementary activities in schools and communities that are responsible for safely delivering daily school meals.
- The Program supports 32 active multi-year school meals projects across 28 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Western Hemisphere, benefiting around 3.5 million children each year through daily school meals and related activities.

Financing

- The McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program is currently investing USD 1 billion in school meals through active programming.
- The McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program allows up to 10% of programme funds to be used for local and regional agricultural commodity procurement, helping foster a gradual transition towards nationally owned school meals programmes.

Advocacy and Partnership

- It has supported governments and communities in building the structures and enabling environment necessary to sustain national school meals programs beyond USDA support.



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