



## School Meals Coalition

*National engagement and commitments  
(May 2023)*

One year and a half after its launch, more than 75 countries have joined the School Meals Coalition. Out of these, 20 countries have defined their national commitments in support of achieving the overall goal of ensuring that all children have access to healthy and nutritious meals in school by 2030.

Each country has worked on ambitious commitment documents, which will be available soon in full through the School Meals Coalition website. This document is a summary and highlights just some of the commitments for ease of reference. This summary does not intend to replace the official government commitments, but it might serve as guide and inspiration to other countries looking for examples of how to best engage with the Coalition. In addition, this document also describes the ways in which countries are engaging with the Coalition, as a way to operationalize or add to their national commitments.

The below list starts by highlighting the commitments of the Taskforce countries, followed by the member states of the Coalition.

### School Meals Coalition Taskforce countries

#### Finland's commitments include:

- Finland's Minister for Development Cooperation and International Trade Mr Ville Skinnari will continue to act for the year 2022 as the WFP's Global Champion for School Meals. In this role, Minister Skinnari will provide high-level advocacy work to generate interest and resources towards school meals. Finland will also advocate for school meals at the diplomatic level in various international forums
- In 2021 Finland doubled its support to WFP's school meals programmes with a contribution of 5 million euros channeled to CAR, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar and Somalia. In 2022, Finland contributed with an additional US\$1.1 million to school feeding activities.
- Finland leads the School Meals Coalition member state taskforce and the strategic coordination of activities for the Coalition. Finland has joined the Coalition's Peer-to-Peer network, Financing Taskforce and the Research Consortium.
- Finland provided a contribution of 400 000 euros in 2020 to the work of the Coalition secretariat. A further financial contribution of 500,000 Euros to the secretariat was done in 2022. Finland also provided a JPO for the Coalition secretariat.
- Finland commits to implement school meals procurement criteria that include environmentally friendly cultivation methods, food safety, nutrition as well as animal welfare and health aspects. In addition, it is encouraged to involve pupils to participate in the planning, implementation and assessment of school meals.
- Finland is ready to provide technical expertise for countries wishing to develop their school meals programmes. To facilitate this, we have developed a website with information on the Finnish school meals system and connections to Finnish companies and experts.



#### France's commitments include:

- Starting 2022, the meals served in school must consist of at least 50% of sustainable and quality products, including at least 20% of products from organic farming. To widen everyone's access to school meals, aid for school canteens in rural communities (€ 50 million) have been put in place.
- France commits to advocate for school meals in global agendas, such as the G7, G20 and promote the Coalition during exchanges with representatives of states and governments.
- France will provide a secondment to support the work of the Sustainable Financing Taskforce.
- France has increased its financing for operations. In addition, some of the food aid projects financed by France in countries in food crisis will focus in particular on support for school meals, as is the case in 2021 in Afghanistan (up to 13 million euros), Algeria, Ethiopia, Haiti, Niger, in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Venezuela.
- France committed to joining the Peer-to-Peer Network led by Germany for the exchange of good practices and engaging the Research Consortium through French academic institutions, who will be working on capturing the national best practices and lessons learned in a case study, supported by French academic institutions.

In addition, France leads the School Meals Coalition member state taskforce and the strategic coordination of activities for the Coalition. At the political level, President Macron has advocated for and promoted the Coalition, by publicly announcing his support via social media and providing a statement during the launch event encouraging other countries to join. In 2021, France directly contributed up to EUR 1 million to the school meal programmes of WFP.

#### Guatemala's commitments include:

- Continue implementing mechanisms that allow us to provide school meals based on the human right to food, which is adequate, nutritious, safe and with cultural, social and ethnic relevance, contributing to the nutrition and health of boys and girls.
- Share experiences, best practices and evidence on the implementation of the School Feeding Programme in Guatemala with the different countries adhering to the Coalition.
- Address bottlenecks and promote actions that lead to the improvement of the school feeding programme through research, inter-institutional and multi-sectoral coordination, including academia and the private sector.

#### Honduras commitments include:

- Restore the level of children who received food in schools before the pandemic, 1.3 million children, by 2022.
- Update the legal, political and institutional framework to achieve the national objectives for food and nutrition security, including the school feeding programme. Continue to use public schools as central hubs for nutrition access, increasing school feeding coverage through local procurement and improving school infrastructure, prioritising clean water, renewable energy and connectivity.



#### Japan commitments include:

- Share insights into Japan's advanced school lunch system, promotion of food education and initiatives of the private sector relevant to school lunches according to the interest of partner countries.
- Contribute, through bilateral assistance in the field of school lunches, to the capacity building and human resource development of developing countries for the implementation of school lunch systems, the promotion of home-grown school lunches, and the introduction of food education.
- Contribute to the school feeding programmes of WFP, supporting the children that have lost access to school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring that children are able to meet basic nutritional needs in times of emergency.
- Enhance the international attention on school lunches by advocating for the importance of school lunches, nutrition and health at global forums.
- Promote school lunch and "Shokuiku" in Japan, with an emphasis on nutritionally balanced school lunches, advancing further use of local produce in school lunches and implementing "Shokuiku" throughout school education activities based on relevant regulations such as the School Lunch Program Act.

#### Kenya's commitments include:

- Expand the coverage from the current 1.9 million children to universal coverage by 2030.
- Develop a national policy on school meals by June 2023.
- Establish a national school meals coalition and hold annual school meals stakeholder conferences with the aim of strengthening national coordination of the programme.
- Roll out a digitalized school meals data and reporting module within the National Education Management Information System by December 2023.
- Work with multiple stakeholders to introduce green technologies that provide clean energy solutions to support safe food preparation.
- Encourage school gardens through the re-established 4-k clubs for introduction of healthy diets and for the sustainability of the school meals programme.

#### Rwanda's commitments include:

- Committed to achieve universal coverage of school feeding for basic education; to review and update the National Comprehensive School Feeding Policy and strategy on a regular basis, to ensure it is relevant and inclusive.
  - During the launch of the Sustainable Financing Initiative Rwanda announced impressive progress by increasing their budget from USD 33 million to USD 44 million and the coverage from 660,000 to 3.8 million students.
- Committed to establish, build capacity, and sustain school feeding coordination structures and stakeholders at the national and decentralized levels. to maximize the impact of school feeding



programmes on the local market through the development of the local school feeding commodity supply chain and market linkages in close collaboration with stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

- Committed to sustain the annual budget allocated to the national school feeding programme.
- Committed to participate in peer-to-peer exchange and learning activities with other countries and global school feeding stakeholders for impactful, nutritious, and sustainable school feeding programmes (Study visits, conferences, case studies, technical assistance).
- Commit to support and build connections between national academic institutions and the school feeding research consortium, government and other relevant initiatives related to school feeding research and learning.

At the Transforming Education Pre-Summit in June 2022, Minister Twagirayezu Gaspard announced that the country expanded school feeding programmes from 700,000 students to 2.5 million children.

#### **USA's commitments include:**

- USDA is investing in additional research and innovation over the coming years. Research shows that updated program standards have had a positive and significant influence on nutrition quality over the last decade for school meal recipients in the United States.
- The United States commits to working with Coalition members, building on contributions and lessons learned from the U.S. McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, to advance the day when every child is well nourished and well educated.

In addition, the US is creating the BOND-KIDS project led by the United States National Institute for Health with a multi-agency steering committee. This project will provide guidance to policy makers on high-quality and age-appropriate diets and identify agreed nutrition indicators that can be consistently collected for school-age children, adolescents, and youth. The US is also participating in the Sustainable Financing Task Force, offering the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program as a potential model for multi-year financing with the aim of future national sustainability. Secretary of State Tom Vilsack promoted and advocated for the establishment of the School Meals Coalition by calling other countries to join and by providing a statement during the launch in November 2021. Most recently The United States intends to invest up to [\\$11 billion over three years](#), to combat global malnutrition, the underlying cause of almost half of childhood deaths globally. USDA announced an increase of [\\$750 million](#) for national school meal programs in January 2022. In June 2022, the United States has committed to provide [\\$943 million for the next year](#) to support the purchase of American-grown foods for school meal programmes in response to the ongoing impacts of rising food costs.

#### **School Meals Coalition member countries:**

##### **Burkina Faso's commitments include:**

- Provide equitable access to sufficient, healthy and nutritious food for schoolchildren by increasing the share of local food products in school canteens, by developing menus adapted to the nutritional needs of schoolchildren and by promoting health, hygiene and nutrition activities in schools.



- Increase capacity building of actors involved in school food and nutrition by promoting nutrition education and by strengthening the capacities of communal actors in the management of school canteens
- Increase the sustainability of school meal programmes by promoting the consumption of local food products
- Strengthen the legal framework and governance of school canteens and encourage mayors to formulate recommendations and strong commitments to support the functioning of school canteens

#### **Cambodia's commitments include:**

- Increase the share of school meals funded and managed by the Royal Government of Cambodia in areas with high poverty, malnutrition and low educational performance.
- Formalize and operationalize a national school meals policy whilst strengthening its integration across relevant sectoral policies and strategies.
- Optimize the design of the existing program based on good practices and lessons learnt, promoting cost-effective healthy diets while contributing to the local economy.
- Implement a holistic package of complementary activities as part of the national school meals program that supports the human capital development of Cambodian children and their communities.
- Develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the performance of the national school meals program, including cross-sectoral performance indicators.
- Take forward the agenda of the School Meals Coalition "Peer to Peer Community of Best practices" as a provider and a recipient of experience and best practices on school meals.

#### **Chile's commitments include:**

- Strengthen the inter-sectoral support of our School Feeding Programme through the establishment of institutional agreements. Strengthen the Gastronomic Laboratory for the promotion of innovation in the school meal programme, incorporating healthy products with local relevance and preparations from other countries in school canteens.
- Support research on child nutrition in Chile by organizing and providing access to statistics, data and knowledge generated by the operation of the School Feeding Programme.
- Be an active part of knowledge sharing on best practices in school feeding, participating in experience sharing activities with other countries (study visits, case studies, technical assistance), in relation to impactful, nutritious school meals within the scope of sustainable food systems.

#### **China's commitments include:**

- Advance the nationwide scheme on rural school meal improvement by funding school meal projects, improving administration and coordination at all national levels, and steadily scaling up the scheme.
- Encourage the sourcing of locally-produced food and boost local agro-product markets and farmers' employment through conducting centralized procurement and signing supply contracts with farmers.



- Engage multiple stakeholders in the nutrition enhancement program and enhance its visibility. The government will engage and coordinate efforts of community-level organizations such as urban and rural residents' committees, and enterprises, foundations and charities to improve nutrition of school meals.
- Advocate food-saving behavior and healthy diets through school meals projects.
- Strengthen research on school meal nutrition and develop a guidance on meal preparation to improve school meal quality. We plan to join relevant international research networks to learn best practices of other countries and share China's experience.

**The Democratic Republic of Congo's commitments include:**

- Working to achieve universal coverage of school feeding in primary education.
- Develop a national school feeding strategy that will strengthen capacities for coordination, implementation and engagement of communities and stakeholders.
- Pass a law on school meals which will increase the annual budget allocated to canteens and define the implementation and coordination.
- Include school feeding in relevant sector strategies
- Maximize the impact of school canteens on the local economy through supply chain development in close collaboration with agricultural sector stakeholders
- Engage in peer-to-peer exchange and learning activities with other countries and school feeding stakeholders globally
- Support and establish links between national, international academic institutions and school feeding research consortium to develop relevant initiatives
- Actively participate in the activities of the Global School Meals Coalition

**Dominican Republic's commitments include:**

- Increase the number of schoolchildren that receive 70% coverage of macro and micronutrients through the School Feeding Programme. Reduce sugars and fats in the menu of the School Feeding Program, for the prevention of chronic non-communicable diseases.
- Implement the School Food and Nutrition Surveillance System (SISVANE) to impact on the health of public sector schoolchildren, contributing to improvements in learning and the reduction of school dropout.
- Promote intersectoral and interinstitutional articulation to strengthen the School Feeding Program and propose a staggered budget allocation to finance the objectives and goals of the School Feeding Program.

**The Gambia's commitments include**

- Scale up home grown school feeding programs to cover all public schools in the Gambia by the year, 2030 and empower mothers' clubs and other relevant stakeholders to effectively implement home grown school feeding programs.



- Create a fiscal space to maintain an incremental school feeding budget line that will always adequately support all vulnerable children at any given time.
- Re-introduce regular deworming under the school feeding programme to intensify the nutritional health of children.
- Adopt a broad-based multisectoral approach for the implementation of the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme and create strong linkages between the production/supply side (Ministry of Agriculture and smallholder farmers) and the demands /school meals delivery side (Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education), while endeavoring to support and enhance the capacities to deliver, of both sides of the equation.
- Increase and strengthen capacity at the national School Agriculture and Food Management Unit. Streamline the human resource and organizational structure and institute and maintain a national multi-stakeholder steering committee to effectively support quality school meals planning, implementation and monitoring for greater success.

**Germany's commitments include:**

- Establish a peer-to-peer network under the umbrella of the School Meals Coalition to promote of the exchange of experience between interested experts of national governments and regional organizations and thus support countries that are willing to establish, adjust or expand their school meals programme.
- The Federal Government will continue to promote the development and implementation of integral quality standards for school meals. Based on the lessons learned, a validated method for establishing dietary guidelines and quality standards will be developed, which will be disseminated in more low- and middle- income countries and hence contribute to improving children's food and nutritional situation.
- Provide recovery and rehabilitation support for school meals programmes in order to improve the nutritional situation of children and their families and strengthen their resilience to future crisis. Together with WFP, UNICEF and FAO, we will continue to implement programmes in several contexts and countries and complement them with WASH action or by improving income-earning opportunities for neighboring communities.

**Philippines' commitments include:**

- Provide Fortified Rice (iron) in school feeding programs to address malnutrition.
- Introduce home-grown school feeding and link schools to the community and the small-scale farmers for sustainable, gender-transformative and income-generating food production and supply.
- Increase fiscal support to school meals and improve the quality and coverage of the program towards universal feeding.
- Implement existing and advocate for stronger policies to promote healthy food choices among schoolchildren, including those that provide guidance on foods and beverages sold or marketed in schools or to schoolchildren, and those that regulate food industry advertisements and sponsorships targeting schools.



**Somalia's commitments include:**

- Finalize, endorse and implement the National School Feeding Policy and ensure the national school meal programme it is well articulated in the government plans, the Education Sector Analysis, Education Sector Strategic Plans 2022-2026, Somalia National Development plan- 9.
- Establish a multi sectoral coordination mechanism for the implementation of the School Meals Programme and engage new partners to support school meals both technically and financially, with a specific focus on the private sector.
- Advocate on the importance of school meals to increase local and national awareness

**South Sudan's commitments include:**

- Continue advocating for an increased budgetary allocation toward the education sector from the national treasury, including for school feeding management costs at the national and sub-national levels.
- Develop comprehensive policies to support school health and nutrition, including the school feeding national guidelines.
- Participate in multi-sectoral policy dialogues and ensure the inclusion of school-based services and resource requirements in multi-sectoral policies (e.g. agriculture, nutrition, and social protection).
- Establish, build capacity, and sustain multi-sectoral and partner school feeding stakeholder coordination structures at the national and subnational levels.
- Maximize the impact of school feeding programs on the local market through the development of the local school feeding commodity supply chains with a bias towards small-scale and female producers.
- Strengthen peer to peer exchange and learning activities with other countries and global school feeding stakeholders on impactful and sustainable nationally-owned school feeding programs (e.g., study visits, conferences, case studies and technical assistance).
- Support and build relationships with national, regional and international academic institutions for evidence generation and learning for advocacy, adapting programming and resource mobilization from the national budget and partners, including the adoption of digitized tools for showcasing results.

**Zambia's commitments include:**

- Investing in scaling up coverage of the Home-Grown School Meals programme, integrating nutrition and ensuring linkages to the agricultural sector to contribute to a sustainable food system.
- Providing effective coordination across relevant sectors for greater impact across education, agriculture, nutrition, health and social protection sectors, collaborating with national, regional and international stakeholders to support the Home-Grown School Meals programme.
- Institutionalise into the Home-Grown School Meals programme robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks, accountability tools including capacities to improve effective and efficient management of the programme.





- Invest in research and knowledge management to document as well as share best practices and lessons to improve implementation and inform the design and management of Home-Grown School Meals programmes through the South to South and Triangular Cooperation Framework.

### Commitments mentioned at the Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2021:

**Benin** - Statement by H.E. Mr. Gaston Dossouh, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries during the Nutrition for Growth Summit: Within a year, 100% of Benin's primary schools could be covered by the school feeding programme.

**Cambodia** - Commitment published in the Nutrition for Growth Summit Compact Annex: From 2025 onwards, 161,000 school children will receive school meals annually through government programs; 620 schools will deliver school meals annually under government funding.

**Japan** - Commitment published in the Nutrition for Growth Summit **Compact Annex**: Promoting nutritionally balanced school lunches, advancing further use of local produce in school lunches and implementing "Shokuiku" throughout school education activities based on relevant regulations such as "the School Lunch Program Act".

**Kyrgyzstan** - Commitment published in the Nutrition for Growth Summit Compact Annex: By 2025, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic will increase the coverage of primary schools participating to the school meal optimization program from 65% to 90%.