



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

School Meals Coalition: Nutrition, Health and Education for Every Child

Declaration of Commitment

The Zambian government recognises the immense value the Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme can play as a key strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We acknowledge that the HGSM programme has the potential to boost local agriculture production and sustain the national food system by linking smallholder farmers to the HGSM programme as an alternative market.

The Ministry of Education is implementing the HGSM programme as the largest food-based safety net intervention in sixty (60) per cent of the districts in all the 10 provinces, reaching 1.9 million learners in approximately 5,100 schools. The goal of the HGSM programme is to deliver home grown school meals to learners whilst simultaneously reducing poverty and malnutrition realizing returns on investment far beyond education, agriculture, nutrition, health and social protection sectors.

The Zambian government recognises that attaining the national vision of being a Middle-Income Country by 2030 as espoused in the 8th National Development Plan will require a well-educated, highly skilled, and healthy labour force to drive development. To attain this goal, the government commits to work towards implementing the following:

1. Investing in scaling up coverage of the HGSM programme, integrating nutrition and ensuring linkages to the agricultural sector to contribute to a sustainable food system.
2. 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 HGSM programme.
3. Institutionalise into the HGSM programme robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks, accountability tools including capacities to improve effective and efficient management of the programme.
4. 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 HGSM programmes through the South to South and Triangular Cooperation Framework.

Name: Dr. Douglas Syakalima

Title: Minister of Education

Country/Organisation: Zambia/Ministry of Education

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Z. M. Va.' with a stylized flourish.

Date

26/09/22