

Sustainable Financing Initiative For School Health And Nutrition (SFI)

Offer Of Support For Sustainable Financing Strategies For School Meals Programs



THE EVIDENCE - AT A GLANCE



Domestic financing is key to ensure predictable and sustainable school feeding programs.



Countries mobilize a diversity of financing options (general revenues, earmarked taxes, VAT), but they often lack a credible financing strategy to support ambitious political commitments.



90% of school meals programs worldwide are publicly / domestically funded - this figure falling to 38% in LICs.



International support to school meal programs in LICs is shrinking and remains fragmented.

WHAT IS THE SFI?

OBJECTIVE

The Sustainable Financing Initiative for School Health and Nutrition (SFI) is an initiative of the School Meals Coalition, led by the Learning Generation Initiative at EDC. It aims to work with governments and donors to help countries identify multi-year financing opportunities for school feeding programs with a particular focus on low- and lower-middle-income countries (LICs & LMICs). It does this through research and analysis, direct country support and raising the financing of school meals on the global agenda.

COUNTRY SUPPORT

The SFI works at country level with government members of the School Meals Coalition, World Food Programme (WFP), donors and other key stakeholders committed to expand national school meals programs and transition towards country ownership and domestic financing sustainability. It supports the development of sustainable financing strategies for national school feeding programs providing technical expertise, a methodology and cost and financing tool. The approach works collaboratively with the government to estimate the full costs of school meals programs (and possible areas for efficiencies), allocation strategies (with focus on equity), existing funding, and the gaps. It explores options for closing the funding gaps from domestic resources as well as transition funding needs and options from donors or multilateral development banks. It can also explore additional funding from the private sector, philanthropy, and untapped resources such as through linkages with local agriculture and climate financing. It will be informed by research SFI is doing on donor and innovative financing at the global level to which this country work can also contribute.

OFFER OF SERVICES

- **Conducting fiscal space analyses:** This will analyse financial performance, national resources, general and/or earmarked funding to specific sectors and to education and school feeding. It will examine the performance of public expenditure, national budget cycles and disbursement mechanisms, timeliness, and efficiency. It will assess the prioritization of government resources and potential for expanding the fiscal space and identify priority options for increased spending on school feeding.
- **Conducting full costing analyses:** This will calculate the full costs of a quality national school feeding programme including food, management, procurement, monitoring, and capacity strengthening. Analyses will identify potential cost reductions and national resources to cover the costs of school feeding, and the funding gaps that would need to be addressed by the government or partners.
- **Development and facilitation of national financing strategies:** This will identify sources of possible financing including revenues, innovative mechanisms and/or parental contributions to fill the funding gaps. SFI will engage with ministries of finance, planning, parliamentarians and their committees, and other relevant stakeholders to develop realistic options that will contribute to a sustainable financing strategy.
- **Facilitating dialogues and discussions around financing for school meal programmes:** In order to raise the profile and encourage greater engagement on financing of school meals, the SFI can work with the government and local partners to facilitate stakeholder engagement and policy dialogues on school feeding financing, involving international and local donors.

POINT OF CONTACT

Interested in the SFI's support? Contact Katherine Kullman, International Project Manager for School Health and Nutrition at kkullman@edc.org.