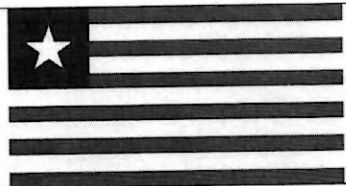


Liberia School Meals Coalition National Commitment	
Country:	Liberia
Country flag/emblem:	
Contact name	Hon. Tarnue Marwolo Bongolee
Contact information (email address)	Assistant Minister, Student Personnel Services Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia Ministerial Complex, Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa Phone No. +231 886 829 989, +231 770 143 74 Email contact: tmbongolee@moe.gov.lr bt.marwolo@gmail.com

The Government of Liberia expresses its strong support for school meal programmes as a policy instrument to drive and strengthen human capital, social and economic growth and sustainable food systems in the country. The Government is convinced that this programme is a systemic solution that helps fight child hunger and poverty; supports child nutrition, learning, long-term well-being and health equity; supports the strengthening of food systems and local economies; and promotes gender equality by keeping girls in school.

The Government of Liberia also believes that school meals programmes are much more than simply providing food in school. They help to improve and diversify children's diets, teach children how to eat better and support national and local markets and food systems by using locally grown food thus improving opportunities for smallholder farmers, many led by women. The Government attaches great importance to the school meals programme because of the use of the Home-Grown School Feeding approach which contributes significantly to achieving the objectives of the national development priorities as outlined in the government's development plan as well as the Education sector plan.

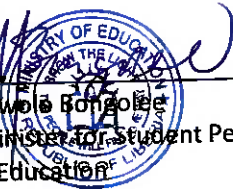
The Home-Grown School Feeding programme in particular, promotes local food production creating market for locally produce food there by helping to reduce post-harvest losses, increasing income of smallholder farmers and contributing to the reduction in the level of food insecurity in the country during these challenging times of global crises. The Government of Liberia therefore supports the global effort to position school meals as a central, cross-cutting intervention that will contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future. As a demonstration of this commitment, Liberia signed the School Meals Coalition Declaration in September 2021. As a proud member of the Coalition, we wish to announce the following commitments towards its goals:

No.	Commitment	Category	Target	Deadline
1	Strengthening institutional arrangements for Home Grown School Feeding including strengthening multisectoral coordination	Policy commitments	Functional platform established for quarterly multisectoral coordination meeting on HGSF	30 June 2024
2	Revise the National School Feeding Policy	Policy Commitment	School Feeding Policy revised	30 June 2024
3	Increase the coverage of the school meals programme by 45 percent from 1,110 schools to 1,610 schools to cover 332,000 school	Programme design and coverage commitment	Coverage of school feeding programme increased by 500 new schools	30 June 2025

4	Embed school meals into other relevant national, sectoral or institutional policies including the national development plans	Policy commitment	School meals incorporated in national development plans	30 June 2024
5	Establish a sustainable budget line for the school meal program in the national budget and increase the yearly allocation to USD 5 million in the next two years	Financial commitment	Budget line created in the national budget for school feeding	30 June 2024
6	Develop guidelines for the integration of school health and nutrition into the school feeding programme	Programme design and coverage commitment	Nutrition guidelines for school meals programme developed	30 June 2024

Signed: _____

Tarnue Marwolo Bongolie
 Assistant Minister for Student Personnel Services
 Ministry of Education



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