



GLOBAL SCHOOL MEALS COALITION

"A HEALTHY MEAL EVERY SCHOOL DAY, FOR EVERY CHILD"

COMMITMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

Joining the Global School Meals Coalition is an important step that the Government of the Republic of Burundi is taking towards accelerating universal coverage by 2032 in line with the National School Feeding Policy (PNAS) approved in 2018.

The PNAS is in line with the Government's commitment for Homegrown School Feeding "to ensure that all school children enjoy good health for learning through the provision of a complementary and healthy balanced diet in schools, prepared exclusively with local products and respecting nutritional standards so that hunger is not a barrier to education". Homegrown School Feeding (HGSF) also contributes to the achievement of several sustainable development goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG2 (zero hunger), SDG3 (good health and wellbeing) and SDG4 (quality education), among others.

In fact, the multi-sectoral impact of homegrown school feeding programs on school children's learning (Education), healthy balanced diet (Health, Nutrition), on job creation, local economy, income for small producers (Agriculture), wealth transfer, food security (Social Protection) has been demonstrated in several studies.

In order to support the National School Feeding Program, an innovative initiative that contributes to the transformation of both food and education systems, the Government of the Republic of Burundi, through the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, commits to:

1. Gradually increase universal school feeding coverage for pre and primary schools from 24% to 50% by 2027 and 100% by 2032;
2. Revise and update by the end of 2024 the National School Feeding Policy (PNAS) to incorporate new orientations and approaches;
3. Integrate school feeding into the food fortification policy and school health/nutrition strategy by the end of 2025, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Fight against HIV-AIDS;
4. Develop by the end of 2024 a school feeding implementation strategy, financing strategy, to better prepare the transition phase for increased ownership of the programme by the Government;
5. Gradually increase the annual national budget dedicated to school feeding through the Finance Act to reach 50% coverage in 2027 and 100% in 2032;

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6. Improve by 2024 the coordination of the PNAS by revitalizing the Intersectoral Committee involving technical ministries, parliamentarians, NGOs, UN agencies, financial partners, private sector...;
7. Strengthen, from academic year 2025-2026, governance and transparency in the National School Feeding Program management by hiring dedicated staff in provinces for monitoring and implementation, scale up digital monitoring at school, communal, provincial, and national levels;
8. Improve implementation of nutrition-sensitive homegrown school feeding by gradual scale-up of the decentralized procurement from smallholder's farmers cooperatives, small - medium scale food processors to at least 50% of supported schools by 2027;
9. Improve quality of meals by introducing menu guides, as well as milk, mushrooms, fortified whole maize flour, bio-fortified beans, enriched mixed flours and scale up improved energy saving stoves in 100 schools starting in the academic 2024-2025;
10. Finalize by the end of 2025 the school feeding impact evaluation, cost-benefit/value for money studies, assessment of nutritional status of school-age children and mobilize stakeholders (ministries, universities, donors, local administration...) for an informed policy review and funding to implement recommendations from the studies;
11. Introduce breakfast in schools starting from academic year 2023-2024 to enable children in the morning pedagogical group to benefit from breakfast, facilitating better learning conditions;
12. Pursue advocacy and appropriation of the PNAS by the highest authorities of the Republic, in particular Her Excellency the First Lady, school feeding Champion through annual high-level engagement with development partners, technical ministries local administrations, and the organization of the African School Feeding Day (ASFD) in either 2024 or 2025.

Signed in Bujumbura on 2023,

Prof. Francois HAVYARIMANA

