

JOINT MEDIA ADVISORY

17 May 2024

HOMEGROWN SCHOOL FEEDING CONFERENCE IN DAKAR: LEGISLATING CHANGE, FUNDING FUTURES OF WEST AFRICAN CHILDREN

Dakar – The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is hosting a regional technical conference on Homegrown School Feeding (HGSF) in Dakar, Senegal, from May 21–23, 2024 to discuss ways to generate and provide sustained funding, and technology needed to support HGSF initiatives. The conference will showcase best practices and institutional models, identify solutions to support national commitments, and foster knowledge exchange and monitoring of progress.

Co-hosted by the World Food Programme (WFP) with support from the International Financial Institutions and the School Meals Coalition, the conference brings together high-level experts, ECOWAS commissioners, and representatives from the education, agriculture, and finance sectors of each country. High-level participants include:

- ECOWAS Commissioner Human Development & Social Affairs – Professor Fatou SOW SARR
- ECOWAS Commissioner Economic Affairs & Agriculture – Mrs. Massandje TOURE-LITSE
- Secretary General of Ministry of Education – Mrs. Khady Diop Mbodji
- Minister of Agriculture Senegal – Dr. Mabouba Diagne
- Deputy Regional Director WFP Senegal – Mrs. Evelyn Etti

The overall goal is to promote further extension and improvement of quality and sustainable Homegrown School Feeding (HGSF) programmes in the ECOWAS region where more than 32 million children are out of school, the largest share of all regions worldwide. Current projections show an increase in hungry people, expected to affect over 55 million people by mid-2024.

Join us on Tuesday, May 21, 9:00-10:00 am at Radisson Blu Hotel to engage with HGSF experts and representatives of the School Meals Coalition on the potential for Homegrown School Feeding programmes in helping disadvantaged communities meet their basic needs while fostering sustainable development and reducing poverty in West and Central Africa.

For more information: <https://schoolfeeding.araa.org/>

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