

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Photo: WFP/Isadora Ferreira



**Centre of Excellence
against Hunger**

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PRESENTATION

The Centre of Excellence against Hunger has completed four years as a catalyst for social development. The South-South cooperation work conducted by the Centre contributes to accelerate social transformation processes by supporting the creation of sustainable national social protection policies, such as the ones promoting school feeding and smallholder farming.

The strategy that connects various social protection policies – including school feeding – with food purchases from smallholder farmers has proven its effectiveness in fighting rural poverty, increasing food security and the nutritional status of policy beneficiaries, farmers and their families, and valuing local food habits. Government food procurement from smallholder farmers creates a stable demand that favours increased and improved agricultural production.

This strategy was recently strengthened in Brazil when, following the successful experience of the National School Feeding Programme, the federal government determined that at least 30% of the food purchased for all federal programmes should come from smallholder farmers and their cooperatives and associations. The Brazilian experience in public food purchases from smallholder farming was recorded and analysed in a series of publications released by the Centre at the end of 2015.

The increase in the number of countries with which the Centre cooperates and the intensification of the dialogue with these countries has caused the Centre's scope of work to gradually expand to include new and challenging topics. The Centre's technical cooperation work, which in the beginning focused on school

feeding, now includes the exchange of experiences and technical assistance in other social protection programmes such as cash transfer and the centralized register of beneficiaries.

The expanded scope of work led the Centre to improve its performance in the area of nutrition as well. An increasing number of countries are interested in nutrition policies that range from fighting hunger to controlling obesity, and the Centre is facilitating the exchange of experiences in this field among southern countries. Strategies such as community restaurants, food banks, milk banks and systems that assess and monitor the nutritional status of the population have attracted the attention of an increasing number of governments, and the Centre has prepared specific support on these themes.

The Centre of excellence is supporting Brazil's activities in the initiative known as Nutrition for Growth. The initiative, which is a result of the partnership between the governments of the United Kingdom and Brazil, brings together governments, private initiative leaders, scientists, scholars and the civil society to establish ambitious political and fi-

nancial commitments needed to ensure adequate nutrition for millions of children, women and pregnant women.

A large Nutrition for Growth event will seal this international commitment in Brazil during the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August 2016. Brazil's role is to support other countries in strengthening nutrition programmes and respond to requests for international assistance with the creation and expansion of nutrition policies. The expected result is the reduction in child malnutrition cases and deaths due to acute malnutrition. The Centre's work in the initiative is part of a new partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the fight against malnutrition through the exchange of experiences among southern countries.

In the second half of 2015, the Centre of Excellence partnered with the Global Child Nutrition Foundation to hold another edition of the Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF). The Forum was held in Cabo Verde and brought together representatives from over 40 countries, including 20 Ministers and Deputy Ministers of State as well as government officials, who discussed innovative ways of funding school feeding. One of the highlights of this edition of the GCNF was the intense participation of representatives from Asian countries.

The presence of members of governments of South-East Asia and of World Food Programme country offices evidenced the region's strong interest in exchanging experiences on food and nutritional security and the different strategies used by southern countries in order to achieve it. Following the trend in other regions, Asian countries have joined in a cooperation network to search for solutions to hunger and poverty.

Fostering regional cooperation networks was probably the highlight of the Centre's work in 2015 and will certainly continue to be so in 2016. Since 2014, the Centre has supported the foundation of an African School Feeding Network. The Network was officially launched in 2015 and gathers more than 20 African countries committed to creating or strengthening national school feeding programmes.

The Network has already reached its first important achievement: to involve the African Union, which brings together 54 African countries. By influence of the African School Feeding Network, the African Union has made a study visit to Brazil organized by the Centre of Excellence against Hunger to learn about the Brazilian experience in fighting hunger, with emphasis on school feeding. The mission's objective was to evaluate

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school feeding as a continental strategy to overcoming hunger and poverty.

The result of the mission to Brazil was the recommendation by African Ministers of Education for the adoption of a continental approach to school feeding by the African Union. This recommendation was born from the observation that school feeding is a fundamental tool used by developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in October 2015 by 193 countries.

The Global Goals, as they became known, are an action plan for people and countries that recognizes eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, as the largest global challenge to sustainable development. This action plan also recognizes that cooperation between countries is one of the strategies needed to achieve the Global Goals. And the Centre of Excellence against Hunger will continue to follow this path every day until these objectives are achieved.



Daniel Balaban
Director of the Centre of Excellence
against Hunger



AFRICAN UNION DELEGATION
LEARNED ABOUT THE
BRAZILIAN SCHOOL FEEDING
PROGRAMME
PHOTO: WFP/MARIANA ROCHA

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2015, 193 countries signed the commitment to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as Global Goals, for the next 15 years. A result of more than three years of debates, public consultations and negotiations, the Global Goals are an action plan for people and countries that recognizes the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, as the biggest global challenge to sustainable development.

There are 17 targets combining a total of 169 targets. The objectives determine the overall course of action to end poverty, promote prosperity and well-being for all, protect the environment and face climate change. Since its foundation in 2011, the World Food Programme's Centre of Excellence against Hunger has worked to increase the number of countries in a position to find their own solutions to many of the problems that the Global Goals set out to overcome.

The Centre provides technical assistance for the development of programmes in the areas of social protection, food and nutrition security and home-grown school feeding. Besides improving the nutrition of children and adolescents, school feeding strengthens smallholder agriculture and generates income for rural families from the purchase of food produced by smallholder farmers. Therefore, the Centre contributes directly to end poverty and hunger - SDG 1 and 2, respectively. It also contributes to several other goals such as the promotion of health, quality education, gender equality and inclusive economic growth.

The SDG 2 aims at ending starvation, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture by

THE CENTRE PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMMES IN THE AREAS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY, AND HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING

2030. The World Food Programme has declared SDG 2 to be its priority, and the Centre of Excellence offers an innovative approach to find sustainable solutions for hunger.

Each country is responsible for achieving the Global Goals and the UN is committed to contribute to their effective capacity to accomplish the task. The Centre's work methodology is based on South-South cooperation and on strengthening the capacity of governments and the civil society in developing countries. This methodology speaks directly to SDG 17, which covers implementation mechanisms for the Global Goals and the revitalization of a global

AFRICAN UNION VISITED SCHOOL
GARDENS INITIATIVE
PHOTO: WFP/MARIANA ROCHA



partnership for the promotion of sustainable development.

COOPERATION NETWORKS

The SDGs are global in nature and universally applicable, but communicate directly with policies and actions on the regional and local levels. To ensure the achievement of the targets established by the SDGs, it is essential to encourage action by local rulers and administrators, a principle which governs all actions of the Centre of Excellence against Hunger.

The year 2015 marked a major progress in this aspect of the Centre's work. On 12 June in Dakar, Senegal, 21 countries approved the terms of creation of an African School Feeding Network with the mandate to contribute to the establishment and improvement of school feeding policies, including an increase in country budgets for this purpose. The countries with which the Centre had been working individually perceived the importance of regional articulation to turn their plans to create and implement sustainable school feeding programmes into reality.

Network participants aim to encourage more involvement by governments and other relevant actors in the institutionalization of school feeding, as well as to identify funding mechanisms for the programmes. The network was initially conceived as

a francophone school feeding network to promote exchanges among French-speaking countries. The first meeting took place at the 2014 Global Child Nutrition Forum held in South Africa in September. The meeting was an initiative of the Minister of Education of Niger. With support from the Centre of Excellence against Hunger and the WFP Regional Office in Dakar, the network

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was expanded to include English-speaking countries from all regions of the continent.

The first tangible result of the articulation and mobilization of stakeholders by the African School Feeding Network has been to attract the African Union's attention to the theme. The African Union congregates 54 countries in the continent to promote the well-being of peoples and to enhance cooperation among countries to face social, economic and political problems. In August, at the initiative of Niger's Minister of Education, a high-level delegation of members of the African Union went on a study mission organized by the WFP's Centre of Excellence against Hunger, by the WFP African Union office and by the WFP Niger country office.

The delegation composed of ministers of Education, Agriculture and Finance was shown how the Brazilian school feeding programme is structured and funded, visiting schools and smallholder farmers in order to understand the many aspects involved in the implementation of the programme. At the end of the visit, participants prepared a technical note with subsidies for the meeting of the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Education, Science and

AFRICAN UNION LEARNED ABOUT THE BRAZILIAN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME'S STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

Technology, which would be held in October.

With the technical note prepared in Brazil in hand at the Technical Committee meeting, the ministers of Education from African countries gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, endorsed a continental decision to adopt school feeding with local food purchases as a strategy to improve education, strengthen local economies and smallholder farming, and move forward in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. The ministers prepared a second technical note to present to the African Union heads of state during the January 2016 summit.

In the technical note, the ministers of Education stressed the importance of the visit to Brazil to understand how school feeding can be integrated into an extensive social protection programme. They also recommended that the heads of state ensure that African Union member states take ownership of school feeding initiatives, that they strengthen existing programmes and create new ones, and invest in south-south and in triangular cooperation with the Centre of Excellence.



SENEGAL HOSTED A
REGIONAL SEMINAR ON
SCHOOL FEEDING
PHOTO: WFP/MARIANA ROCHA



DIRECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONSOLIDATES GOVERNMENT CAPACITIES

As governments begin putting plans into action to create or improve social protection programmes such as school feeding, they identify new demands. Such demands push the Centre of Excellence against Hunger to renew its ways of providing technical assistance to countries. Some of the requests received by the Centre involve assistance in the elaboration of programmes, policies and legislation, organization of public consultations and workshops, dialogue with stakeholders and trainings.

If in the first years of activity the Centre's focus was on showing the governments of developing countries that it is possible to find innovative and sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty, in 2015 the work was centred on direct technical assistance. In general, this assistance takes the form of technical missions, deploying experts, and organization and participation in events.

BENIN AND TOGO

Throughout the year, the Centre offered the support of its technical staff and a specialist to the governments of Togo and Benin to advance the implementation of action plans established during a study visit to Brazil in April 2014. Three technical assistance missions were made to each country along the year.

In November, the government of Benin held the National Forum on School Feeding in Cotonou. The meeting was organized by the country's Ministry of Child and Primary Education with technical and financial support from the World Food Programme's country office and the Centre of Excellence against Hunger.

The Forum's general objective was the validation of an action

plan by the main actors involved: ministries, parents and teachers associations, farmers, the private sector and others. The action plan established lines of action for the implementation and funding of the National School Feeding Policy during a five-year period. The meeting was also an opportunity to gather all actors involved with school feeding and introduce them to guidelines on the new approach to school feeding in Benin, based on a multi-sector model.

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SCHOOL FEEDING IS AN IMPORTANT SOCIAL PROTECTION STRATEGY
PHOTO: WFP/MARIANA ROCHA



ZAMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE AND KENYA

In the context of the work on social protection networks, Zambia and Mozambique welcomed technical missions by the Centre in August while Kenya was visited in October. The missions were part of the Partnership for National Social Development Initiatives (PNSDI), a joint project of the Centre of Excellence and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). The Initiative supports social protection projects to reduce poverty and hunger in low-income countries, with a focus on Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia and the Gambia.

In Zambia, the Centre experts met with government representatives and partners involved in the implementation of the country's new Social Protection Policy. They participated in the Annual Joint Review, in which the government, the WFP and partners shared the results of missions conducted in different areas of the country in an effort to assess the implementation of projects that are part of the policy, such as a cash-transfer programme. Staff from the Centre of Excellence made a presentation on ways to improve collaboration among various sectors and on Brazil's Zero Hunger Strategy, detailing programmes such as the Bolsa Família cash-transfer programme, PNAE and PAA.

In Mozambique, the Centre discussed joint activities with representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Childhood and Social Action. With the closure of the National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE) pilot project, the Centre of Excellence,

the WFP country office and the Brazilian government are working with other partners to support Mozambique in evaluating the pilot project and planning new programme phases.

The Centre of Excellence deployed a technical mission to Kenya in November to assist the government in improving the National School Nutrition and Meals Programme Strategy, along with the WFP country office. The two-day workshop was fundamental to build the national school feeding strategy, which will be submitted for approval in 2016 by the stakeholders.

THE INITIATIVE SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROTECTION PROJECTS TO REDUCE POVERTY AND HUNGER IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN AND NEPAL

In addition to Benin and Togo, the Centre also deployed consultants to Bangladesh and Pakistan. A Centre of Excellence expert made two missions to Bangladesh throughout 2015 to support the development of the country's School Feeding Policy and Strategy. In partnership with the Centre, the WFP country office has been supporting the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and the Directorate of Primary Education in undertaking a review on the ongoing school feeding programme and preparing a plan to facilitate the development of the School Feeding Policy and Strategy.

In 2013, WFP and the government of Bangladesh launched a cooked school meals pilot initiative, providing children with freshly prepared meals. Known as khichuri, the meals are made with micronutrient fortified rice and oil, protein rich pulses, vegetables and spices. The meal is prepared at the school level, involving local communities. The vegetables required for the meals are procured from local women growers. The Centre visited some schools as part of the review of the ongoing school feeding programme. The review will serve as one of the inputs to the School Feeding Policy and Strategy.

Since 2014, the Centre has supported the permanence of a consultant in Pakistan in the framework of the UN Volunteers programme, in partnership with the WFP country office. The consultant works as a programme officer helping the Pakistani government develop the National Zero Hunger Programme

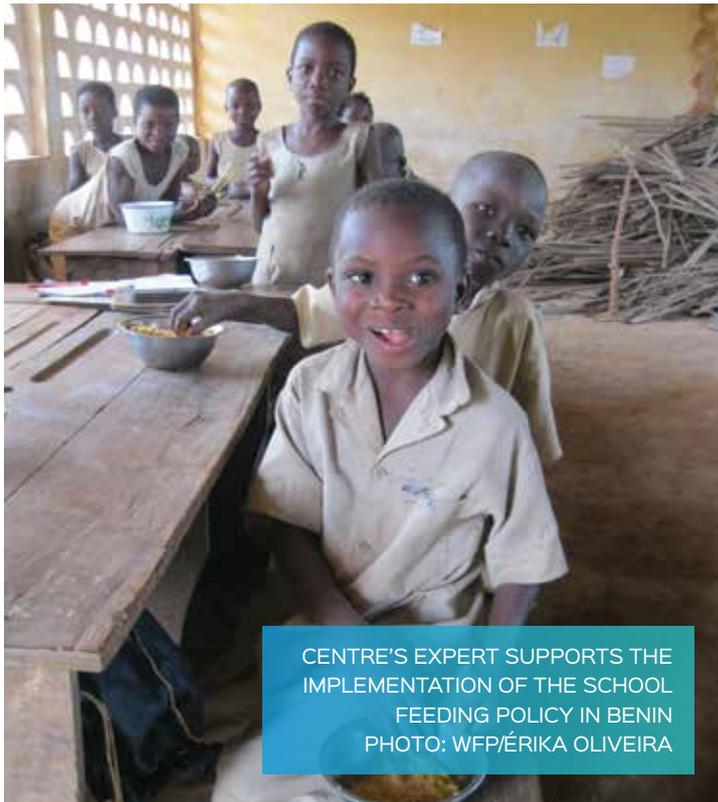
and school feeding programmes, in addition to help coordinate with other Asian countries that seek collaboration with the Centre.

Since the study visit to Brazil in May 2014, the Pakistani government announced the creation of a national food security council and with the help of the Brazilian volunteer, it has conducted consultations in its provinces to map and coordinate the actions of the National Zero Hunger Programme. The country is developing pilot school feeding projects based on the Brazilian experience, which will be implemented in the regions most affected by food insecurity. A delegation of representatives of the country's provincial governments participated in the Global Child Nutrition Forum organized by the Centre in September 2015.

The Centre is testing a new work method with Nepal, offering distance technical assistance with help from the Brazilian volunteer programme officer based in Islamabad. The WFP country office is supporting the Nepalese government



BANGLADESH EVALUATED
ITS SCHOOL FEEDING
PROGRAMME
PHOTO: WFP



CENTRE'S EXPERT SUPPORTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY IN BENIN
 PHOTO: WFP/ÉRIKA OLIVEIRA

in the development of school feeding initiatives and has facilitated the participation of government representatives in the Global Child Nutrition Forum. The Centre is also supporting the preparation of pilot projects in nutritional education in the country by sharing resources and materials based on the Brazilian experience.

CAMEROON

With support from the Centre of Excellence, Cameroon has made an important step towards implementing a new school feeding policy. The country held the first “National School Feeding Policy Validation Workshop” from 3 to 5 August.

The event gathered 150 participants, among them the representatives of 10 ministries, the WFP, the Brazilian government, other UN agencies and NGOs, in addition to mayors, members of the civil society (parents association, women’s association) and teachers.

A Cameroonian government delegation was in Brazil in November 2014 to see first-hand the Brazilian food security policies. Inspired by the Brazilian model, Cameroon is now preparing its first national school feeding policy.

SCHOOL FEEDING SEMINAR

Dakar, the capital of Senegal, hosted a Regional Workshop on School Feeding between 8 and 12 June. The event was organized by the WFP Regional Office in Dakar and the Centre of Excellence. The objective was to discuss sustainability mechanisms for school feeding programmes in Central and West African countries.

In the first two days, the event was attended by the staff members of WFP country offices in charge of school feeding. The participants discussed two new WFP policies, the school feeding policy and the south-south cooperation policy. They had the opportunity to discuss regional and international contexts and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various actors involved in south-south cooperation and school feeding initiatives. They also proposed coordination mechanisms for WFP’s and its partners’ efforts to develop innovative approaches in both topics.

Following this first round of debates, the event gained new dimension when it brought together representatives of the governments of 23 countries and the 31 members of the WFP staff to share best practices and innovations in school feeding. It was an opportunity for governments and the WFP to work in the preparation of a transition model for nationally-owned school feeding programmes.

The debates were intended to strengthen the capacities of the various governments in the region to develop, improve and maintain national school feeding programmes in the context of new perspectives and challenges emerging from the Global Goals agenda. The majority of participating countries have already embraced ambitious school feeding strategies and have the challenge of implementing them. The African School Feeding Network was officially launched during the seminar.

GLOBAL DEBATES ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

In addition to country missions, the Centre also contributed to the debate on social protection strategies and food and nutritional security strategies by participating in events about such topics in various countries.

In March, the Centre of Excellence facilitated a training effort organized by the WFP country office in Mozambique about food and nutritional security and social protection networks. Between 9 and 13 March, about 20 people discussed the WFP work plan on social protection. The Brazilian experiences in social protection networks such as conditional cash transfer programme Bolsa Família, the Food Acquisition Programme (PAA) and the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) served as inspiration for the discussions in **Mozambique**, which proposed to establish how social protection networks can contribute to fight vulnerability and poverty in a given country and help build resilience.

In the same week, the Centre and the Brazilian government sent a joint mission to **Egypt** to present the school feeding and the food and nutritional security programmes at the request of the Egyptian Government. The delegation met in Cairo with a representative of the Egyptian ministries of International Cooperation, Social Development, Education and Agriculture.

On 8 and 9 April, **Senegal** hosted the International Seminar about Social Protection in Africa. The unprecedented event brought together 12 African countries and the government of Brazil to share experiences and to foster the debate on social protection, as well as to build bridges between the African countries and Brazil in the framework of south-south cooperation. The seminar was organized by the African Union, Brazil, Senegal, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Lula Institute.

The Centre presented its South-South cooperation work at the forum “School Feeding Forum for a better life – Feeding the future of our children”. The event took place on 29 and 30 April in Tegucigalpa, **Honduras**, with the objective of promoting an exchange of experiences among Latin American specialists and governments.

On 14 and 15 May, Bogota, **Colombia**, hosted the international seminar “International Seminar on Successful Experiences in Nutrition: a pathway to building a better future”. The event was organized by the WFP country office and DSM. It brought together experts from several countries in Latin America, including the Centre of Excellence, to show advances, evidences, studies and successful experiences with which to base the discussion of solutions for the prevention and reduction of poor

nutrition among the Colombian population.

In order to discuss the challenges and perspectives of school feeding in Latin America, the Centre of Excellence against Hunger took part in the “ VII School Feeding Seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean”, from 26 to 28 August in **Peru**. The theme of the regional gathering, which took place in Lima, was “ School Feeding: A Tool of Social Protection for Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion”.

The Centre of Excellence supported the participation of five African countries in the “ Global Forum on Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection Programs: Towards Partnerships for Development “. The event took place in Moscow, **Russia**, on 10 and 11 September. The officials and technical staff of government delegations from the Gambia, Zambia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Mozambique had the opportunity to share case studies and thus contribute to Forum discussions, and were able to plan cooperation activities with the Centre.

The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education of The **Gambia** held the National Conference on Education at Banjul, bringing together the main actors in the sector to finalize the National Education Policy 2016-2030. The Centre of Excellence against Hunger contributed with the discussions with a presentation on home-grown school feeding.

Government representatives, UN agencies and the civil society met in Kampala, **Uganda**, for a series of events to celebrate the 6th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security Meeting. The WFP Centre of Excellence participated in the high-level meeting organized by the African Union Commission and the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition.

The Centre made a presentation on fostering partnerships for viable homegrown school feeding programmes. The presentation showed how Brazil involved different sectors to formulate public policies and the roles of government institutions, legislators, the civil society, nutritionists, schools and smallholder farmers in the implementation of the National School Feeding Programme. The highlight was how a well formulated, implemented and regulated programme can contribute to the country's growth.



THE BRAZILIAN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME SERVES AS INSPIRATION FOR OTHER COUNTRIES
PHOTO: WFP/ANA CLÁUDIA COSTA

EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES CONTRIBUTES TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL POLICIES

The demand by developing countries to learn about challenges and lessons learned of successful experiences in fighting hunger and poverty and to exchange experiences with Brazil on these subjects remained high in 2015. During the year the Centre of Excellence against Hunger organized seven study visits and supported another two. Countries such as Sudan and Liberia participated in study missions for the first time and others, such as Ethiopia, returned to Brazil to deepen or widen the knowledge acquired in previous visits.

In addition to visits to specific countries, the Centre also organized a study mission for representatives of the African Union, as previously highlighted.

HAITI

From 9 to 13 February, a delegation of the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture was in Brazil for a study visit organized by the Centre of Excellence against Hunger in partnership with the World Bank. The visit's objective was to acquire knowledge about the main Brazilian strategies to strengthen agricultural production, especially for smallholder agriculture, as a way to achieve food and nutritional security.

The visitors had the opportunity to find out how Brazil created a structured demand for smallholder farming products through institutional purchases, especially through the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) and the Food Acquisition Programme. They were also able to directly observe rural technical assistance actions to smallholder farmers in order to improve

productivity, promote the cooperative system and facilitate farmers' access to government credit programmes and institutional purchases.

At the end of the mission, the Haitian delegation stated its intention to involve other ministries and request technical support from the WFP to consolidate public policies on smallholder farming. They highlighted some Brazilian examples to be followed, such as the technical assistance given to smallholder farmers, the inter-sectoral approach, the concern with the nutritional aspects of school feeding, the solid legislation, and the active participation of different social actors in the implementation of social policies..

SUDAN

A delegation from Sudan was in Brazil from 2 to 6 March for a study visit organized by the Centre of Excellence. The objective of the visit was to exchange knowledge with the Brazilian government on the integration of school feeding and smallholder agriculture. The Sudanese government has a pilot project in this area and wishes to create a national school feeding policy.

The delegation of Sudan consisted of three ministers of state and other six high-ranking officials of the Sudanese government in addition to representatives of the WFP country office. After learning about the political and institutional framework that is the basis for the implementation of the Brazilian programmes that form the Zero Hunger Strategy, with emphasis on the National School Feeding Programme, the Sudanese delegation went on two field visits to learn about the food distribution system, the food bank, school feeding and actions to stimulate smallholder farming.

At the end of the study visit, the delegation of Sudan prepared an action plan which will be validated by the Sudanese government and whose implementation will have the support of the Centre of Excellence.

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia sent two study missions to Brazil in 2015, in addition to another two in 2013. Between 23 and 30 March, an Ethiopian delegation visited rural schools and properties to observe the Brazilian school feeding programme operations and the participation of smallholder farmers in supplying food to schools. The objective was to collect subsidies for the design and implementation of a strategy to ensure the sustainability of the national school feeding programme.



DELEGATION OF ETHIOPIA DURING A FIELD TRIP
PHOTO: WFP/CAROLINA MONTENEGRO



DELEGATION OF CAMBODIA AT A POPULAR RESTAURANT
PHOTO: WFP/CAROLINA MONTENEGRO

THE DELEGATION OF SUDAN PREPARED AN ACTION PLAN THAT WILL BE VALIDATED BY THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT AND IMPLEMENTED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE CENTRE

The second study visit of the year focused on nutrition, as part of a partnership between the Centre of Excellence and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. A delegation consisting of four ministers as well as representatives of the Ethiopian government and of the WFP country office visited Brazil from 21 to 27 July, to learn from Brazilian government representatives about successful strategies adopted in Brazil in the area of food and nutritional security.

The field visits included initiatives such as the human milk bank, decentralized health centres, community restaurants and the Food and Nutrition Surveillance System (Sisvan), an information system used to make a descriptive and analytical diagnosis of the food and nutritional status of the Brazilian population.

PHILIPPINES

The government of the Philippines made a study visit organized by the Centre of Excellence in 2013 and returned in 2015 as part of a bilateral cooperation agreement with Brazil. Members of Congress and of the Philippines Department of Agrarian Reform were in Brazil from 6 to 10 July to learn about Brazilian policies and programmes in the areas of zero hunger and smallholder agriculture.

The delegates visited the Centre of Excellence where they attended lectures that

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON NUTRITION

South-South cooperation on nutrition

The Brazilian strategy on food and nutritional security is considered an international reference for its multi-sector approach, in which nutrition programmes are executed through the integrated actions of different ministries with the active participation of the civil society.

The solid Brazilian history of success in reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition with emphasis on the production and consumption of healthy foods attracts interest worldwide, resulting in the growth in requests for technical cooperation and South-South exchanges.

In the framework of international initiative Nutrition for Growth, Brazil has accepted two key commitments: to support other countries in strengthening nutrition programmes and to respond to requests for international assistance to create and expand nutrition policies by sharing experiences and expertise.

Ethiopia's mission to Brazil was the Centre of Excellence's first activity under the new partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the fight against malnutrition by sharing experiences with southern countries.

Nutrition for Growth is an initiative that brings together governments, private initiative leaders, scientists, scholars and the civil society to establish ambitious political and financial commitments needed to ensure adequate nutrition for millions of children, women and pregnant women. The expected result is the reduction in childhood malnutrition cases and death by acute malnutrition.

During the 2016 Olympics in Rio, Brazil will host a Nutrition for Growth summit with the support of the Centre of Excellence against Hunger. The initiative was launched in the United Kingdom during the London Olympics in 2012, and the next country to host an event will be Japan, during the 2020 Olympics.

provided a panorama on Brazilian initiatives to overcome hunger, such as the Zero Hunger Strategy and the Bolsa Família cash-transfer programme. They also made a field visit organized by the Centre to understand how policies to fight hunger are integrated with food supply efforts in Brazil, and to learn about different initiatives to support smallholder farmers and vulnerable populations, such as the food bank. After a visit to the Food Supply Centre (Ceasa), the delegation had lunch at a community restaurant that provides balanced meals at popular prices.

MOZAMBIQUE

Between 27 and 30 July, the first lady of Mozambique, Isaura Nyusi, visited Brazil to learn about successful public policy experiences with emphasis on food and nutritional security programmes. The visit was organized by the first lady's office with support from the WFP's Centre of Excellence against Hunger.

The first lady sought experiences, knowledge and support to implement her office's strategic plan, with defined priorities such as fighting food insecurity and malnutrition, and searching for solutions to improve job offers among young people. In Brasilia, the first lady and her delegation had the opportunity to get to know the Young Apprentice Programme, the National School Feeding Programme, a community restaurant and a project that provides fortification for child nutrition with powdered micronutrients.

CAMBODIA

With support from the Centre of Excellence against Hunger, a delegation from Cambodia visited Brazil from 3 to 7 August to see the Brazilian school feeding and hunger fighting programmes more closely. Delegation members went to technical meetings and on field visits, where they learned about technical assistance to smallholder farmers, community restaurants and the National of School Feeding Programme.

LIBERIA AND GHANA

As part of the Centre of Excellence against Hunger's participation in the 5th National Conference on Food and Nutritional Security, the Centre supported the participation of government delegations



DELEGATIONS OF LIBERIA AND GHANA HAD LUNCH IN A POPULAR RESTAURANT IN BRAZIL
PHOTO: WFP/ANA CLÁUDIA COSTA

from Liberia and Ghana, as well as civil society delegations from Rwanda, Malawi and Ethiopia, within the scope of the nutrition project supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. On the morning of 3 November, representatives from the governments of Liberia and Ghana presented their nutrition programmes to conference participants.

The Centre promoted a series of field visits so the delegations could get to know the work of the Human Milk Bank and the Family Health Assistance Centre. The group also visited a community restaurant and a cooperative of smallholder farmers to understand how the rural producers organize themselves in cooperatives and associations.

The group was able to observe the cultivation and marketing of vegetables, fruits and grains by the cooperative,

5TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

Between 2 and 6 November, the Centre of Excellence against Hunger participated in the 5th National Conference on Food and Nutritional Security, which brought together representatives of food and nutritional security councils throughout Brazil. The conference was held by the National Food and Nutritional Security Council (Consea) around the theme “Real food in the countryside and in the city”. Besides approximately 2,000 Brazilian delegates, the event was also attended by some 100 representatives from other countries.

On the occasion, the Centre celebrated its fourth anniversary. The conference is held every four years and it was precisely during the 2011 edition that the Centre was officially launched. An international meeting took place on 2 and 3 November for an exchange of knowledge among the representatives of various countries present at the Conference. Delegation members from Liberia, Rwanda, Ghana, Ethiopia and Malawi attended the event with support from the Centre.

During the Conference’s official opening, the Brazilian government announced a pact with incentives for organic, agroecological and smallholder agriculture products, in order to ensure their offer on a regional and local basis.

As part of the 5th Conference, the Centre of Excellence against Hunger and the Ministry of Health organized on 4 November the “International Seminar on Inter-sectoral Nutrition Policies”. Brazil, Mexico and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation presented successful initiatives on nutritional intervention.

DELEGATION OF CAMBODIA VISITED
BRAZILIAN SMALLHOLDER FARMER
PHOTO: CAROLINA MONTENEGRO



which sets aside part of its production to supply public programmes, such as the Food Acquisition Programme and the National School Feeding Programme. The technical assistance given to farmers was also a highlight.

PUBLIC FOOD PROCUREMENT FROM SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN BRAZIL

On 4 November the Centre of Excellence against Hunger launched the Portuguese versions of the first three studies that make up the “Food and Social Policies” series. The series is about public procurement of food in Brazil and its impact on food and nutritional security and smallholder farming.

The studies bring new data and analyses pertaining to two Brazilian programmes that purchase food from smallholder farmers – the National School Feeding Programme and the Food Acquisition Programme. The research work was carried out by the Centre in partnership with independent consultants, the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) and the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The first study, “Food Supply and Public Food Procurement in Brazil: an overview”, was prepared by researchers Francisco Menezes, Silvio Isoppo Porto and Cátia Grisa. The study shows the repeated food supply crises throughout Brazil’s history and presents different Brazilian government experiences with food procurement.

The second study was conducted by FGV and presents different modalities of public food purchase by the PNAE and the PAA. It highlights changes in public procurement standards that made it possible for smallholder farmers to sell their products to public institutions, including schools. The study “Modalities of Public Food Procurement from Smallholder Farmers in Brazil” was conducted by Mauro Lopes and Armando Fornazier.

The third study, “Scale of Public Food Procurement in Brazil” was conducted by IPC-IG. It estimates the quantity of food purchased in Brazil by federal, state and municipal governments. Researchers Rovane Schwengber, Eduardo Pontual Ribeiro, Fábio Veras Soares and Rodrigo Octávio Orair are the authors.

THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL
SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES
PHOTO: WFP/ISADORA FERREIRA



SUCCESS STORIES

MORE THAN 40 COUNTRIES DISCUSS FUNDING FOR SCHOOL FEEDING

The representatives of over 40 countries gathered at Sal Island, Cape Verde, for the 17th Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) from 28 September to 2 October. The 250 participants discussed innovative ways of funding national school feeding programmes connected with smallholder farming. They also discussed different approaches to ensure that their countries can design new school feeding programmes or improve existing ones.

Three aspects were highlighted as being essential in seeking sustainable funding for home-grown school feeding. The multi-sectoral approach is the first. Involving various ministries and actors in the country, mobilizing NGOs and the international community, and attracting the private sector are crucial to give governments access to the resources needed for the implementation of school feeding programmes.

The second aspect highlighted at GCNF was the need for concrete results to be presented to potential fund sources, whether from within governments or external to them. These results include educational impacts such as student enrolment, attendance and academic performance, impacts on the health, nutrition and hygiene of children and their families, and the increase in agricultural production and income of smallholder farmers. Investment in studies and research that demonstrate such impacts is indispensable.

The third aspect necessary to ensure sustainable sources of funding for school feeding is accountability. It shows potential donors, internal or external, that school feeding money is used

efficiently and that there is no waste. The participants highlighted the importance of involving the civil society, especially parents associations, in the supervision of disbursements to schools.

Home-grown school feeding is a crucial element to promote development. The GCNF participants stressed the connection between school feeding and the Sustainable Development Goals. "In this journey to eliminate food and poverty, no one can work alone. We are doing it together and no border can stop us," said Gene White, founder of the Global Child Nutrition Foundation.

Daniel Balaban, director of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger, said: "The 2030 Agenda lays down ambitious objectives geared to the promotion of a new type of development that is inclusive and seeks to reverse the trend of environmental degradation. To WFP, the priority is to fulfil SDG 2, which is about fighting hunger, and school feeding is a vital tool for this".

The Global Child Nutrition Forum was organized by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation and by the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger with the support and cooperation of the government of Cabo Verde. Since 1997, the annual forum provides technical assistance to developing countries that are interested in creating, developing and expanding school feeding programmes based on nutrition and connected with smallholder farming. The Centre has held the GCNF in partnership with the Foundation since 2013, when the Forum took place in Brazil.

BRAZILIAN SCHOOL COOKS EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Between 8 and 12 June, two teachers and two school cooks from the São Paulo municipal education system visited Dakar, the capital of Senegal. They accompanied a technical mission of the Centre of Excellence against Hunger that was in Dakar for the Regional Workshop on School Feeding.

The trip was awarded as the first prize in the competition “Education Beyond the Plate” organized by the São Paulo city government in partnership with the Centre of Excellence to encourage consumption of fruit and vegetables in schools and enhance the role of cooks and educators in fostering healthy eating habits.

The trip’s objective was to promote the exchange of experiences between Brazil and Africa. The school cooks and educators had the opportunity of presenting their experiences with the São Paulo school feeding programme to representatives of the Ministries of Education of 23 African countries gathered in Senegal for the regional seminar. They shared initiatives on food and nutritional education in schools, like promoting healthy eating habits and planting vegetable gardens at school, and explained the São Paulo’s food procurement process step by step.

What do children eat in the schools of Senegal? What types of meals are served? How do the communities organize themselves? What are the main challenges? What is similar and what is different from what happens in Brazil? To have those questions answered, the school cooks and teachers took to the field and visited the

Ouadiour Primary School, supported by WFP via a cash transfer programme (Cash & Voucher).

The school is located about 160 km from Dakar in the department of Gossas, Fatick region. The school, which dates from 1962, is one of the oldest in Senegal and has 184 students distributed in five classes. School feeding relies on the active participation of mothers, who take turns to prepare the two meals served daily: lunch and a snack.

The visit enabled a rich exchange of experiences among the teachers and school cooks of São Paulo and Ouadiour. The group received a warm welcome from the students and was present during snack time - a mixture of millet and peanuts. The school is used to receiving visits from donors, but the visit by the Brazilian cooks and educators was special. The Senegalese community was very interested in exchanging ideas with the Brazilian educators, and the cooks even exchanged recipes.

The school cooks and educators who won second prize in the Education Beyond the Plate Award travelled to Brasilia in August to accompany a study mission from Cambodia. Throughout the programme, delegates discussed initiatives to mobilise the school community into fostering healthy eating habits.

SUCCESS STORIES

BENIN ADVANCES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY

More than 200 people gathered in Cotonou, Benin, for the Second National Forum on School Feeding from 16 to 18 November. The participants validated an action plan for Benin's National School Feeding Policy, which was adopted in 2014 and is based on a multi-sectoral school feeding model that integrates education, health, nutrition, agriculture, hygiene and sanitation.

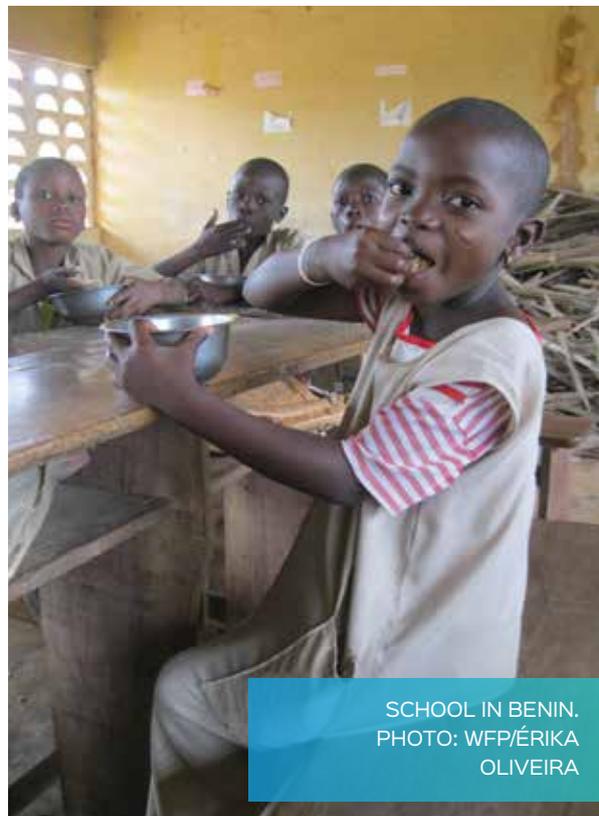
The Forum was organized by the Ministry of Pre-School and Primary Education of Benin with support from the World Food Programme country and regional offices, the Centre of Excellence against Hunger and the government of Brazil. One of the objectives was to encourage southern nations to share experiences and learning in school feeding. The event was attended by representatives from Brazil, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Senegal and Togo. They discussed common challenges, such as the school feeding programme legal framework, the need for a multi-sectoral approach, government and private funding for school feeding, and community participation.

The Forum ended with five recommendations for the implementation of the Benin National School Feeding Policy: to create an autonomous agency to oversee school feeding; to involve the government, the communities and the private sector in funding the programme; to build school vegetable gardens; to promote synergy among the various sectors and actors involved; and to recognize the importance of connecting school feeding with local agriculture.

With the support of the Centre of Excellence and within the framework of a South-South cooperation

initiative, the Ministry of Pre-School and Primary Education of Benin developed in 2014 its National School Feeding Policy. The Forum in Cotonou was an opportunity to define strategies to put this policy into action, incorporating a sustainable and integrated approach with emphasis on the connection between school feeding and local food production.

Benin sent a study mission to Brazil organized by the Centre of Excellence in 2014, when the process of preparation of the National School Feeding Policy was initiated. Since then, the Centre keeps a specialist to support the government in its objective to improve the implementation of the school feeding programme.



SCHOOL IN BENIN.
PHOTO: WFP/ÉRIKA
OLIVEIRA

ETHIOPIA INVESTS IN SOCIAL PROTECTION

Since 2013, Ethiopia has invested in South-South cooperation to boost the development of its own solutions to hunger and poverty. Country representatives have already been on four study missions to Brazil. The first two visits took place in 2013 and focused on school feeding. In the first mission, the delegation consisted of Ethiopian government technical staff. Second mission participants were government officials, including ministers of state.

At the end of the missions, the delegates prepared an action plan to enable the connection between school feeding and smallholder farming. The initiative was part of the social protection strategy in the country. The government then set up a school feeding task force involving various ministries, with the mandate to develop the National School Feeding Policy.

The task force members went on a third study mission to Brazil in March 2015 in order to discuss various sustainable models for school feeding. The Centre of Excellence technical staff assists the task force with drafting the strategy to implement the national school feeding programme.

Since 1994, the government of Ethiopia has been developing a school feeding programme in collaboration with WFP. The programme is yet to cover all of the country's regions, but even so it has been a successful intervention that tests innovative home-grown school feeding models, linked to smallholder farmers. The development of a national school feeding strategy reflects the government's recognition of the potential impact

that school feeding has on the country's social, educational and health indicators.

In addition to the efforts in the area of school feeding, the Ethiopian government is also concerned with improving the nutritional indicators of the population. To this effect, it took part in the first study mission organized by the Centre of Excellence with an exclusive focus on nutrition. During a week, a delegation composed of four ministers and representatives of the WFP country office learned about nutrition programmes in Brazil.

The participants met with Brazilian government health teams, including representatives of the Ministry of Health, the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) and the National Food and Nutritional Security Council. Representatives of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health explained the country's National Nutrition Programme and underlined both the search for funds to act on a large scale and the limited evidence on the nutritional status of the population as challenges for the implementation of the programme. With the knowledge acquired in Brazil and the support of the Centre, the Ethiopian government hopes to establish the necessary mechanisms to improve the available data on the nutritional status.

SUCCESS STORIES

COUNTRIES INSTITUTIONALISE SCHOOL FEEDING

Strengthening institutional capacities is one of the objectives of the technical assistance offered to countries by the Centre of Excellence. The institutionalisation of school feeding programmes is an important step for their stability and institutions that have good technical capabilities are better equipped to set up, execute and manage sustainable school feeding programmes.

The Republic of Guinea initiated a dialogue with Brazil in 2012 during a study mission organized by the Centre of Excellence against Hunger. An expert hired by the Centre assisted with the development of the National School Feeding Policy and the organization of the National Consultation that took place in March 2013. In 2015, the government announced the creation of the National Directorate of School Canteens, under the country's Ministry of Education.

The National School Feeding Policy was the result of a year's work by a multi-sector group composed of various ministries and representatives of the Centre and the WFP country office. Despite the health crisis faced by the country following the Ebola outbreak, the government held regional meetings to provide training to different actors for the implementation of pilot school feeding projects connected with local food purchases. Strengthening smallholder farming by purchasing food for school feeding was one of the government's strategies to mitigate the effects of the crisis.

The creation of the National Directorate of School Canteens is a sign of institutionalisation of the school feeding programme in the country.

The director of school canteens took part in a training effort organized by the WFP and the Centre in Senegal in 2015, and the first results are beginning to appear. Currently, more than 20% of schools in Guinea are providing school meals. In 2010, this figure was only 7%.

Niger is also investing in the institutionalisation of school feeding. Country representatives have been on a study mission to Brazil in May 2012, and an expert assisted with the development of the National School Feeding Strategy Implementation Plan, in addition to school feeding guides.

In 2013, a national consultation was conducted to validate the plan, which was adopted in November 2013. In the following year, the government created the School Feeding Cell attached to the office of the Minister of Education. The cell's director also received training in Senegal.

The good results in Niger motivated the government into mobilizing other countries and stakeholders around school feeding. Niger's Minister of Education is a promoter of the African Union's involvement with the theme. She accompanied the African Union delegation on its visit to Brazil and had an active participation in the discussions that led the ministers of Education of the member states to recommend a continental school feeding strategy in partnership with the Centre of Excellence.

JANUARY

Launching of videos on public policies for the semiarid

MARCH

Sudan study visit

Social protection training in Mozambique

Technical mission to Egypt

Ethiopia study visit

MAY

Research on school feeding costs in Brazil

International Seminar on Successful Experiences in Nutrition: a path to building a better future, in Colombia

Hunger map highlights Brazilian example

JULY

Philippines study visit

Ethiopia study visit, with focus on nutrition

Visit to Brazil by Mozambique first lady

Signing of memorandum of understanding with Conab

FEBRUARY

Haiti study visit

APRIL

Technical missions to Togo and Benin

International Seminar about Social Protection in Africa, in Senegal

Technical mission to Bangladesh

School Feeding Forum for a better life – Feeding the future of our children, in Honduras

JUNE

Regional Seminar on School Feeding, in Senegal

São Paulo school cooks' mission to Senegal

Launch of the African Network on School Feeding in Senegal

SEPTEMBER

Global Forum on Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection: Towards Partnerships for Development, in Russia

Meeting with the Minister of Infant and Primary Education of Benin

Signing of protocol of intentions with the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI)

Launch of the "Food and Social Policies" series

NOVEMBER

The Centre celebrates 4th anniversary of its foundation

Launch of "Food and Social Policies" series in Portuguese

Participation in the 5th National Conference on Food and Nutritional Security

Benin National Forum of School Feeding

AUGUST

Cambodia study visit

São Paulo school cooks participate in Cambodia study visit

National Workshop to Validate the National School Feeding Policy, in Cameroon

Technical mission to Zambia

Technical mission to Bangladesh

Technical Mission to Mozambique

Regional School Feeding Forum in São Paulo

African Union study visit

VII School Feeding Seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Peru

OCTOBER

17th Global Forum of Child Nutrition (GCNF), in Cabo Verde

Meeting with Zambian delegation

Technical mission to Kenya

African ministers of Education recommend school feeding as continental strategy

DECEMBER

National Seminar on Good Practices in Technical Assistance and Rural Extension, in Brazil

15th National Health Conference in Brazil

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