



XIXth
**GLOBAL CHILD
NUTRITION FORUM**
• MONTREAL 2017 •

global child nutrition
FOUNDATION



The XIX Global Child Nutrition Forum

Bridge to Sustainable Development through School Meals Programmes: Engaging Local, National, Regional, and Global Communities

Communiqué

The nineteenth Forum was organised by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation in partnership with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger, and the Breakfast Club of Canada, with support from partners, experts from governments and non-government organisations, UN agencies, civil society, academics, researchers, private sector, media and other organisations.

The Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) brought together 250 participants (60 per cent women) from 59 countries, including 1 First Lady, 1 Deputy Prime Minister, 5 Ministers and 2 Vice-Ministers, members of parliaments and representatives from the African Union. The Forum gathered government representatives, practitioners and community members from national, provincial and municipal levels, including sectors such as education, agriculture, health, social protection, planning and finance.

The present Communiqué recalls the theme of the XVIII Forum, which was “Building powerful and durable national school meals programmes”.

The Forum acknowledges that school meals programmes contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 17¹, and emphasizes the need for such programmes to be linked to international, continental and national development agendas including the Decade of Action on Nutrition.

The Forum acknowledges the need for multi-sectoral approach and efforts by government and non-government organisations, development partners, UN agencies, civil society, academics, researchers, private sector, media and other organisations.

The Forum praises the African Union for launching the Implementation Cluster on School Feeding under its Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and acknowledges the importance of global and regional networks such as the Pan-African Network for School Feeding and Nutrition, MENA Regional Initiative on School Meals and Social Protection, Latin America School Feeding, South Asian, South-East Asian and the global Scaling Up Nutrition networks. The Forum further underlines the importance and invaluable evidence brought by studies such as the *African Union Study on Sustainable School Feeding in Africa based on local production (HGSF)*, the *WFP study on Nutrition-sensitive School Meals Programmes in Latin America* and other relevant studies.

¹ SDGs 1: No Poverty; 2: Zero Hunger; 3: Good Health and Well-Being; 4: Education; 5: Gender Equality; 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; 10: Reduce Inequalities; 17: Partnerships for the Goals. For more information see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>



XIXth
**GLOBAL CHILD
NUTRITION FORUM**
• MONTREAL 2017 •

global child nutrition
FORUM



The XIX Global Child Nutrition Forum **recognizes** that: (children in conflict or post conflict countries, pay particular attention, say something)

1. Governments should consider food as a basic human right;
2. Governments are called upon to play a key role to ensure this right;
3. Strong political will, leadership and ownership from governments are required to assure food and nutrition security to all children, adolescents and youth² and for integrated and sustainable school meals programmes;
4. School meals programmes should be integrated in the national development agendas as well as in national legal frameworks, policies and programmes such as education, food and nutrition security, social protection, health, nutrition and agriculture;
5. School meals programmes promote gender equity and equality;
6. School meals programmes and child, adolescent and youth nutrition should be incorporated into and become a priority in national budgets;
7. Innovative financing strategies are needed to support school meals programmes;
8. Adequate institutional capacity and accountability (add transparent, “needs to stand out”) are required among governments and implementing partners at all levels for effective delivery of school meals programmes;
9. Integrated and sustainable school meals programmes, especially home-grown school meals, are a sound investment in human capital. They are an effective way of providing food and nutrition to children, adolescents and youth, with multiple benefits in education, health, poverty reduction, community and socioeconomic development;
10. Strong multi-sectoral approach, coordination and good governance are needed to ensure accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of school meals programmes;
11. Public-Private Partnerships have great potential and responsibility to strengthen the school meals programmes;
12. Early Childhood Development through Pre-Primary schools should be included in the design of school meals programmes;
13. School meals programmes should incorporate food and nutrition education;
14. School meals programmes are more effective when they are evidence-based and able to continuously translate knowledge into implementation;
15. Effective knowledge-sharing platforms through local, regional and global cross-learning exchange programmes and media are of utmost importance to strengthen school meals programmes;
16. South-South cooperation is an effective means to strengthen school meals programmes;
17. The importance of giving special attention to school meals programmes in countries in conflict and post conflict.

The Forum **recommends** that:

² <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-definition.pdf>,
United Nations definition of Youth



XIXth
**GLOBAL CHILD
NUTRITION FORUM**
• MONTREAL 2017 •

global child nutrition
FOUNDATION



1. Governments are called upon to develop or improve existing legal frameworks for social and human capital investment and social responsibility from the private sector for school meals programmes;
2. Participants should be champions and advocate for the implementation of school meals programmes;
3. Governments should integrate school meals programmes into national policies, strategies and plans;
4. Gender considerations should be mainstreamed in the design and implementation of school meals programmes;
5. National budgets should provide sufficient resources to school meals programmes;
6. School meals programmes' actors and partners should identify entry points of interest to develop a nutrition-sensitive approach to effectively address the nutrition needs of the target population;
7. School meals programmes should adopt climate smart and environmentally friendly practices and strategies for long term sustainability;
8. Robust M&E systems that provide regular feedback loops should be developed and implemented;
9. Stakeholders should develop communication and media strategies as part of the implementation of school meals programmes;
10. Communication and coordination among partners should take place through existing national, regional and global networks;
11. Special attention is needed for school meals programmes in countries in conflict and post conflict
12. The participating countries should translate the recommendations of this communique into action plans, as appropriate and relevant in their respective country contexts, and report on their progress in next year's Forum.