



GOOD PRACTICES SERIES

SCHOOL FEEDING IN PORTUGUESE SPEAKING COUNTRIES

CAPE VERDE • SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE • BRAZIL • MOZAMBIQUE



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against Hunger

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CAPE VERDE

TRANSITION PROCESS

Swift, organized and sustained transition

Transition process – After a four-year process, the Government of Cape Verde took over the school feeding programme from WFP in 2010. This handover was guided by a clear roadmap and a multi-sectoral commission. It included progressive funding commitments from the government, investments in capacity strengthening and clear milestones. After the transition was completed, Cape Verde approved a school feeding law, established an independent institution to run school feeding and started innovative experiences such as local food procurement.

School Feeding Law – Cape Verde passed an ambitious avant-garde law in 2015, based on its experience in managing school feeding and establishing a vision for the future. The text determines that a minimum of 25% of the food purchased by the national programme should come from local suppliers. It also regulates partnerships with the private sector, prioritizes local eating habits and bans the sale and advertisement of foods and beverages with low nutritional value within a 200m radius of schools.

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SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Clear rules and a dedicated management institution

School Feeding Law – In 2011, the government passed a law creating the National Programme of School Feeding and Health (PNASE) under state responsibility and determining clear procedures for its implementation. The law establishes principles, management rules, mechanisms for oversight and funding, as well as nutrition and quality standards. It is a detailed text that helps ensuring sustainability and adequate coverage.

PNASE – The 2011 law also created the PNASE Coordination, an independent body linked to the Ministry of Education, responsible for managing the Programme. It has its own full-time staff, including logistics officials, nutritionists and a coordinator. Investments were also made in the infrastructure for this Coordination, with dedicated offices, a warehouse and vehicles. All these structures are exclusively dedicated to the Programme's implementation, from planning to monitoring in schools. The PNASE Coordination is also responsible for hiring the cooks, providing training and making sure that food safety and nutrition standards are met.

BRAZIL

INNOVATIONS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Smallholder farming, civil society participation and full decentralization in a country with continental dimensions

Smallholder farming – Since 2009, the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) - fully managed by the government - has a mandatory food procurement quota from smallholder farmers of 30%. To this date, most of the schools have met the minimum of 30%. Strengthening purchases from smallholders demanded intense coordination efforts between the local authorities, programme nutritionists and all actors involved in programme implementation. This process also required continuous technical assistance to support farmers in accessing institutional markets. These efforts have resulted in shorter supply chains that promote local development, with farmers selling fresh and quality food at competitive prices to schools, where their own children have healthier meals every day.

Civil society oversight – By law, each school or local government in Brazil must have a council formed mostly by civil society members (such as parents, farmers and teachers).

These councils are responsible for overseeing the implementation of the School Feeding Programme. This includes monitoring quality, continuity, facilities and accounts, receiving complaints etc. Every year, these councils also approve the local governments' financial reports before they are submitted to the central government.

Full decentralization – The Brazilian School feeding Programme delivers hot meals every day for over 40 million students in 156,000 schools. Reaching this universal coverage demanded a fully decentralized implementation model, developed over years. The central government transfers funds to local governments or schools, which are responsible for purchasing food directly from local suppliers. Accountability, monitoring and planning are responsibilities of the local governments and are key to avoid pipeline breaks, to ensure quality standards and the proper use of funds.

MOZAMBIQUE

INNOVATIVE FINANCING

Swapping debt for school feeding

Debt swap – An innovative arrangement between WFP, the Russian Federation and the government of Mozambique brought USD 40 million for school feeding in the country from 2018 to 2021. The agreement redirected to the SF Programme funds that would otherwise be used for debt payments by Mozambique to

Russia. The funds are dedicated to the expansion of PRONAE (National School Feeding Programme) to a total of 156 schools and up to 150.000 students. The money will also be invested in strengthening government capacities to sustainably implement homegrown school feeding throughout the country.



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