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COUNTRY CASES

TOGO 



**World Food
Programme**

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Highlights

On June 23rd, 2020, the National Assembly of Togo approved, unanimously, the National School Feeding Bill. This is the latest development on the country's efforts in securing a robust school feeding framework. The bill is the result of a long process of advocacy, direct technical support, hard work in looking into other countries' experiences and intense cooperation - a process which WFP is proud to have been part of.

Since last year, Togo's government has been implementing the National School Feeding Programme following this Bill's guidelines, which establish coordination principles, compliance mechanisms and other advanced aspects of programme management. Among other important provisions, the Bill states the creation of an agency exclusively dedicated to school feeding. With a designated legal instrument to guarantee and regulate programme implementation, Togo's school feeding is on its way to becoming a strong State policy.



SCHOOL FEEDING IN TOGO

School feeding operations in Togo have been implemented by various partners in recent decades. Since 2008, the Community Development and Safety Nets Project (PDCplus), supported by the World Bank, has been the main initiative to provide meals in more than 300 schools across the country. The initiative reaches nearly 90,000 schoolchildren from over 300 schools in the five regions of the country, which represents 6% of Togo's public primary schools.

In this model, school canteens guarantee one hot meal five days a week, prepared in the school environment, with an amount of 165 CFA francs. For the first nine years of the project, the operations were coordinated by the team of the project. Since 2017, the coordination of school feeding has been carried out by the National Agency for Local Support (ANADEB).

In November 2018, ANADEB started piloting a new model of school feeding, called the community approach. The new model was launched in 10 new schools, which were not covered by the PDC. The approach provides for a strong mobilization of communities in the implementation of school feeding. The community model offers one hot meal to schoolchildren three days a week, prepared in schools, with a per capita of 100 CFA francs. 95% of the food is purchased from local markets and 5% comes from in-kind contributions from school communities. In addition to in-kind contributions, the Parents Committees are responsible for managing programme funds, for food purchase and preparation. The community approach is led by ANADEB, its regional offices and local NGOs.



TOGO'S COOPERATION WITH WFP COE BRAZIL

In 2014, a delegation from the government of Togo undertook a study visit to Brazil, organized by WFP CoE and WFP Togo, to learn about the Brazilian experience in home-grown school feeding. In that occasion, the delegation members participated in a series of meetings and learning sessions with officials from the Brazilian government directly involved in school feeding implementation and in international cooperation. As a follow-up from that visit, between 2015 and 2016, the CoE Brazil took on a series of in-country missions to Togo, to support the country in developing its National School Feeding Policy.

This policy was a crucial step towards a national school feeding programme with local food procurement, as it guides multi-sectoral coordination between three main ministries: Agriculture, Education and Local Development.

In November 2016, with the support of the WFP CoE, the Government of Togo held the first national forum on school feeding, which was attended by 300 people, including national actors in the field of school feeding and representatives from Benin, Burundi, Niger, Côte D'Ivoire and Senegal. As a central actor in the cooperation to strengthen school feeding in Togo, the Brazilian government participated in these discussions, represented by specialists in school feeding and agriculture. The forum's aim was to discuss the implementation of Togo's National School Feeding Policy, through a series of round tables, working groups and field visits. One of the event's main recommendations was for the government of Togo to adopt a school feeding law, which would facilitate the implementation of a national school feeding programme.

In August 2017, the government of Togo, then, organized a workshop to discuss the first version of the country's School Feeding Bill. The event brought together representatives of various Togolese State ministries, traditional leaders, representatives of civil society organizations, WFP Togo and WFP CoE Brazil. The first version of the bill was completed during the workshop and sent to the Government's Secretary General for review. The Bill was approved by the Council of Ministers two years later, in July 2019, after a series of discussions and alters. Among other important provisions, the Bill states the creation of an agency exclusively dedicated to school feeding and the promotion of linkages between school canteens and smallholder farmers organisations.

During the years between the first draft of the School Feeding Bill and its final approval by the National Assembly in 2020, WFP CoE Brazil and WFP Togo continued their joint efforts to support Togo's government in strengthening school feeding national capacities. This work, however, was not only focused on revising and improving the School Feeding Bill until its approval.



In 2018 and 2019, the CoE Brazil went on a series of missions to Togo, working with the country on the pilot project “Schools of Excellence” and providing support on new possibilities for school feeding implementation models. The government of Togo requested support from the WFP CoE Brazil to assess the community model being tested in all regions of the country and to evaluate the feasibility of its expansion, according to some aspects: community mobilization, infrastructure, budgetary issues, local food production, food supply and storage, menus and accountability mechanisms. This new approach was initiated by the government in 2018 in ten pilot schools.

Over the years, WFP CoE has continuously engaged with WFP Togo and the country's government, dedicated to establishing the legal and normative bases that can guarantee the existence and guide the implementation of school feeding in Togo. In addition to carrying out a series of missions and visits to this end, the CoE also followed Togo's developments through regular communication, experience sharing and the annual Global Child Nutrition Forum, having consistently facilitated Togo's participation in the event. These actions form what we call continuous technical support – consistent engagement that aims at long-term, although extremely important and durable results. **The approval of Togo's School Feeding Bill on June 2020 is a testament to WFP's and the Togolese Government's long-lasting commitment to improving school feeding in the country.**

If you want to know more...

WFP CoE's work with Togo was studied by the Columbia University, as part of a project on relevant experiences in South-South Cooperation.

You can find the full study here 

WHY IS A SCHOOL FEEDING LAW IMPORTANT?

Laws and regulations can be important tools to guarantee children's food and nutrition security at the national level. When a law holds the State responsible for providing school feeding, civil society, national and international organizations can survey and demand State compliance with this obligation, through mechanisms of accountability. Laws and supporting regulations can also help to secure funding for school feeding, to guide programme implementation and they can assist in the coordination of different government sectors – education, health, agriculture –, which improves programme delivery and boosts its results. Finally, legal provisions are powerful tools to ensure that programmes and policies stand strong in face of government administration changes.



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