

# EMPOWERING COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER



**World Food  
Programme**

Centre of Excellence  
against Hunger



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## EMPOWERING COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER



### **THE WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER (CoE) IS A GLOBAL HUB FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER**

The WFP Centre works closely with regional and national stakeholders (governments and institutions) to expand food and nutrition security policies and programmes from a multi-sector perspective, particularly social safety net programmes that include school feeding linked to local agriculture and nutrition. Starting from the Brazilian experience in this area, the WFP Centre fosters food and nutrition security solutions for countries to deliver long-term development benefits for children and vulnerable populations in the Global South.

### **DEVELOPING CAPACITIES TO DELIVER ZERO HUNGER ON THE GROUND**

**Achieving a world without hunger is part of the global development agenda.** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by UN member states in 2015. SDG 2 sets to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030. More specifically, its goals are to: end hunger, attain food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

**World Hunger is on the rise.** Evidence from the “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018” report confirms this fact. The number of people who suffer from hunger has been growing since 2015, returning to levels from almost a decade ago. In absolute terms, this translates into 821 million undernourished or chronically hungry people in 2017, 1 in 9 people worldwide, with higher incidence of food insecurity in Africa and Asia.

**Children constitute one of the most affected groups by malnutrition.** Nutrient deprivation has an immense impact on the health status of children, affecting their physical and psychosocial development, as well as impacting their future opportunities and productivity. Stunting among children remains unacceptably high. In 2017, almost 151 million children under five (22 percent) were stunted. In Africa, the situation is particularly worrying in the

sub-Saharan region, where an estimated 24 percent of the population reportedly suffered from chronic food deprivation in 2017. In addition, more than 38 million children under five are overweight.

### **Tackling poor nutrition contributes to stronger health in populations and their economies.**

The “Cost of Hunger in Africa” study, already conducted in 14 countries, indicates that economies from these nations suffer an estimated annual loss associated with child undernutrition equivalent to 1.9 percent to 16.5 percent of GDP.

**Investing in human capital can build up significantly a country’s competitiveness in a fast-changing world.** Developing human capital provides workforces for the more highly-skilled jobs of the future, which can push for more continued growth and renovate the direction of economies. Human capital is essential for a country’s future, in terms of people, economies, societies, and for global balance. When countries fail to invest effectively in human capital, the costs are massive, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable people.

### **SCHOOL FEEDING IS A KEY DRIVER OF CHILD NUTRITION AND A HIGH RETURN INVESTMENT IN A COUNTRY’S HUMAN CAPITAL AND LOCAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT**

**Research shows that school feeding is cost-effective and offers multiple and multi-sectoral benefits.** School feeding programmes have important impacts in children’s education, health and nutritional status. School feeding improves vulnerable people’s food security and nutrition, and strengthens smallholder agriculture. When school feeding programmes purchase food from local markets, they have the potential to enhance farmers’ access to income-generating activities, diversify national food production, generate stabilizing impacts on local agricultural production, and contribute to local economic development. School feeding supports local capacities to withstand and recover from shocks, and boosts local economies via home-grown school feeding.



**School feeding can help maximize the returns investments in education.** School feeding programmes facilitate access to school, increase enrolment and attendance rates, and improve performance through better nutrition, health and cognitive development of children. These programmes can also foster healthier eating habits among children and their families - contributing to curb the multiple nutrition burden most countries face. Improving nutrition is essential to ensure healthy, productive lives for all.

**International experiences showcase that health and education walk in parallel.** Although developing human capital depends upon a high-level education, health and nutrition are also required for children to be able to benefit and learn in school. It has been established that adequate school feeding and including other social safety nets not only support education, but also health initiatives.

**School feeding programmes can narrow gender gaps and help break the vicious cycle of discrimination against girls.** Girls struggle more than boys for access to education; one in every ten girls in the world is out of school, while with boys this figure is one in twelve. Women and girls are also more exposed to hunger and malnutrition than boys; they represent 60 percent of all undernourished people in the world. When adolescent girls are out of school, they are more vulnerable to forced marriage, early pregnancy, violence and even human trafficking.

**WFP assessments demonstrate that school feeding is a profitable investment.** These reports present a cost-benefit ratio ranging from a minimum of 3:1 to a maximum of 10:1. These calculated returns were validated to account for different modalities and contexts of implementation (emergency, crisis and development) across countries.

**WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IS A GLOBAL HUB FOR POLICY DIALOGUE AND SOUTH-SOUTH LEARNING IN SCHOOL FEEDING, NUTRITION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMES**  
**WFP is the UN organization leading efforts on school feeding globally.** WFP's vision is to ensure that all vulnerable school children are free from hunger and are well nourished and healthy, so they can learn and reach their full potential, thus benefiting their families and their communities.

**WFP CoE, with its innovative and cost-effective model, supports governments in developing their national zero hunger solutions.** Through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), it supports countries with technical assistance and capacity development. As a premise, the WFP CoE joins forces and taps on countries' experience to deliver results in time to reach the SDGs by 2030. SSTC has presented cost-effective results in the long-term, since it builds governmental capacity to deal with the country's challenges and strengthens resilience, progressively decreasing the country's needs for international assistance.

**WFP CoE was established in 2011 to assist developing countries in strengthening their national food and nutrition security frameworks.** 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.

**WFP CoE technical assistance indirectly benefits more than 4 million school-going children and has the potential to reach thousands of smallholder farmers participating in school feeding programmes.**







**The WFP Centre develops countries' capacities to deliver zero hunger on the ground.**

Inspired by Brazil's experience in fighting hunger, the WFP CoE continuously supports 30 countries to strengthen their capacities. Further, it has engaged with 75 countries worldwide, contributing to their national solutions for achieving SDGs 2 and 17. In 2018, WFP CoE's concrete outcomes include 18 countries with enhanced national school feeding programmes, policies and system components.

**WFP CoE focuses on countries requests.**

While delivering its SSTC programme, the WFP Centre responds to requests by partner country governments to help identify, capture and package their national solutions related to the Centre's mandate and scope, and share these solutions with peers. For that, WFP CoE offers advice and various types of support to governments such as drafting legislation, developing institutional plans, supporting pilots' elaboration and roll-out, country-level strategies, elaboration of programmes, policies and legislation, organization of public consultations and workshops, dialogue with stakeholders, trainings, and implementation actions towards nationally-owned sustainable programmes.

**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 WFP Centre of Excellence to renew its ways of providing capacity strengthening initiatives to countries. Fostering regional cooperation networks and partnerships is one of the highlights of the Centre's work. SDG 17 addresses strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. Support in public policies, technical assistance and knowledge-building activities offer countries the means to advance in the fight against hunger. The WFP Centre offers public policy dialogue opportunities for both government staff and decision makers, always involving multiple sectors.

**WFP CoE PROMOTES SDG 17 TARGETS THAT SUPPORT GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE SDG 2 BY VARIOUS FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION INITIATIVES**

**Countries are reaching SDG 2 results faster.**

Several countries have advanced their national programmes and are moving closer towards achieving SDG 2 by strengthening normative frameworks or expanding programmes. Partner countries have also counted with the support from the WFP Centre in the establishment of frameworks and mechanisms to enable purchase of food from smallholder farmers, in addition to support in areas as targeting and cost analysis.

**Countries are also reaching SDG 17 targets sooner.**

In parallel to the SDG 2, the WFP Centre also promotes SDG 17, which addresses strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. This objective includes goals related to finance, technology, trade, and to capacity strengthening, through cooperation among countries. Support in public policies, technical assistance and knowledge-building activities offer countries the means to advance in the fight against hunger.

**High-level policy dialogue and advocacy is at the heart of the Centre's work.**

The WFP Centre promotes the involvement of high-level government actors in school feeding initiatives, also offering public policy dialogue opportunities for both government staff and decision makers, always involving multiple sectors, and thus, increasing countries' commitment to school feeding. For example, through SSTC, the WFP Centre works closely with the African Union Commission to mobilize support, knowledge and resources for school feeding throughout the African Continent. Another interesting example of the WFP Centre's direct efforts in supporting countries include co-hosting the Global Child Nutrition Forum - GCNF, the largest gathering of school feeding experts in the world.





**PARTNERSHIPS ARE VITAL TO ACHIEVE THE 2030 AGENDA**

**Partnerships have never been more important for international cooperation.** Today's challenges are too complex for any organization to tackle alone. A revitalized Global Partnership to deliver on all the SDGs facilitates an intensive global engagement, bringing together governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors, and mobilizing and utilizing all available resources, to transform the world for the better by 2030.

**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 WFP Centre of Excellence. The countries with which the Centre has been working perceived the importance of regional articulation to turn their plans to create and implement sustainable school feeding programmes into reality.

**WFP CoE recognizes that the achievement of SDG 2 depends on effective partnerships in line with SDG 17.** Governments alone cannot finance the results called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The private sector and civil society have an increasingly important role to play in facilitating new solutions through funding, innovation, and capacity strengthening.

**WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE APPROACH**

The approach of the WFP Centre of Excellence is to support national governments in the strengthening of their national social programmes through the promotion of exchanges with other countries, best practices and capacity development. The WFP Centre is demand-driven, promoting country ownership of social programmes through horizontal dialogue with partner countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The Centre's comprehensive knowledge and skills are used to support countries build accountable, efficient government institutions in school feeding programs to assist development in ways that will benefit their population over the long term. The Centre offers advice and support governments in the preparation of documents, such as draft legislation, institutional development plans, country-level strategies, and implementation action plans in school feeding programs.

The WFP Centre responds to capacity gaps identified through an assessment process that is led by the partner government, facilitated by the Centre, and supported by other partners, and in response, the Centre can also assist governments to shape or put new policies and programs in place, such as a sustainability plan for a school feeding program or a transition strategy towards a national school feeding program.

This includes offering nationally-tailored technical assistance and capacity strengthening to support individual government capacities in policies and legislation, institutional accountability, strategic planning and financing, national programme design and delivery and engagement and participation of non-state actors.







## WHAT WE DO

- **Country Capacity Strengthening**
- **South-South and Triangular Cooperation**



## HOW WE WORK

- **Technical and Advisory Services**
- **Partnerships Promotion**
- **Knowledge Services**
- **Advocacy Services**



## AREAS OF WORK

- **Home-Grown School Feeding**
- **Social Protection and Safety Nets**
- **Nutrition**
- **Smallholder Farmers and Supply Chain**

Demand for the WFP Centre technical and advisory services must be articulated around national development priorities, critical needs and available resources. Appropriate sustainable food security and nutrition solutions are jointly decided by the national government and all development partners.

In terms of its Knowledge Hub and Advocacy Activities and in collaboration with countries and development partners, the WFP Centre's staff gather and evaluate information (data, policies and statistics) about the existing environment related to the thematic work related to the Centre's mandate, such as economy, government institutions or social services systems related to school feeding, smallholders' farmers, nutrition

or social safety nets. This data provides a starting point for policy and strategic discussions with countries and helps enhance a country's capacity and knowledge for national school feeding programmes. Studies, researches and analytical reports help the WFP Centre support countries to plan and implement effective school feeding programs.

Fostering regional cooperation and partnerships is at the heart of the Centre's agenda, with the Sustainable Development Goals providing the political impetus. Partnerships are an essential part of the work of the Centre, which was born from a strategic partnership between the World Food Programme and the Government of Brazil.





## WFP CENTRE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES



### TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES

<b>Programme/ Policy Design</b>	<b>Programme/ Policy Implementation</b>
<b>Transition Strategy</b>	<b>Country Strategic Planning Support</b>
<b>Smallholder Farmers Support in Supply Chain &amp; Market Access</b>	<b>Project Preparation (resource mobilization and funding initiatives)</b>



### PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTION

<b>Regional Networks Coordination &amp; Facilitation</b>
<b>International Policy Dialogue</b>
<b>Multisector Coordination &amp; Stakeholders Mobilization</b>



### ADVOCACY SERVICES

<b>Identification of SSTC Opportunities</b>
<b>Study Visits &amp; Knowledge Exchange Activities</b>
<b>Programme Cost-Assessment Support</b>



### KNOWLEDGE SERVICES

<b>Data Collection and Evidence-Building</b>
<b>Good Practices Documentation and Dissemination</b>
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Activities</b>



### **ENGAGING WITH THE WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

Demand for the WFP Centre remote (Virtual Exchanges) and direct on-site assistance activities are encouraged to be articulated around national policy cycles and development priorities, critical needs, and available resources. Appropriate sustainable food security and nutrition solutions are jointly decided by the national government and national development partners.

WFP Centre Services may be provided through the Centre's own staff and as part of its programme activities, or through the deployment of external experts.

The WFP Centre may also facilitate the transfer of knowledge by third parties, for example, through South-South or Triangular Cooperation models, which promote peer-to-peer sharing of best practices between developing nations. Initial requests can be articulated by national governments and officials through WFP Country Offices.

### **BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER**

**Global reach:** We are an office of the United Nations World Food Programme, the largest humanitarian agency in the world. Our work is guided by the principles of equity and peoples' self-determination.

**Efficiency:** Our model offers great cost-benefit ratio. With a small structure, we provide direct technical assistance to over 30 countries simultaneously, with lasting impacts.

**African Union:** Our partnership with the African Union resulted in a continental commitment to investing in home-grown school feeding within its 55 member-states (1.3 billion people).

**Dialogue:** We setup dialogue channels with governments of over 30 countries for the design of public policies. We are part of the African Union School Feeding Cluster, which influences school feeding policies of all African countries.

**Knowledge Sharing & Visibility:** We help give visibility to our partners and to developing countries' experiences in fighting hunger and poverty, improving the speed and efficiency with which food and nutrition security solutions are consolidated, scaled up, and replicated across countries.







**54 AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

committed to investing in school feeding, through the African Union



**48 US\$ MILLION**

being invested in school feeding by countries



**30 COUNTRIES**

benefiting from continued technical assistance from the WFP Centre of Excellence



**18 COUNTRIES**

developing national school feeding policies

**100% RELEVANT**

100% of partner countries consider that the WFP Centre's exchanges and capacity strengthening activities are relevant and responsive to their needs

**72%**

72% acknowledge the WFP Centre's contribution to increasing the engagement and commitment of the various stakeholders with national school feeding initiatives

**67%**

67% acknowledge the WFP Centre's contribution to expanding technical and political support to school feeding

**52%**

52% of the countries supported by WFP CoE consider the Centre as the main partner of choice for South-South cooperation and school feeding

**37%**

WFP Centre is present in 37% of WFP's Country Strategic Plans, for capacity strengthening, technical assistance and South-South cooperation

**16.5%**

Economies from countries with child undernutrition suffer an estimated annual loss equivalent to 1.9 percent to 16.5 percent of GDP (in Africa)

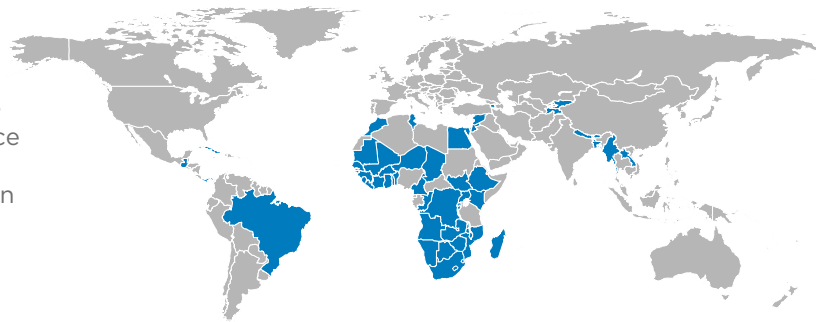
**10:1**

School feeding is a profitable investment presenting a benefit-cost ratio ranging from 3:1 to 10:1.

## IN THE FIELD

**4mi**

The WFP Centre of Excellence technical and remote assistance and capacity strengthening activities can benefit more than 4 million school-going children and thousands of smallholder farmers participating in school feeding programmes





The World Food Programme (WFP) is the largest humanitarian and hunger relief agency in the world. In addition to providing immediate humanitarian responses to crises, wars, and natural disasters through food distribution, WFP seeks to improve the resilience of individuals, communities and countries so that these groups can achieve long-term food security.

**91.4**  
MILLION  
PEOPLE  
ASSISTED

**83**  
COUNTRIES

**15**  
BILLION  
MEALS  
DISTRIBUTED PER YEAR

WFP is usually the first player to reach emergency sites, providing food assistance to people affected by war, civil conflicts, droughts, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, crop failures, and natural disasters. In recent years, while coordinating logistics and communication in conflict areas, WFP has helped millions of people in countries such as Bangladesh, Congo (Kasai), Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, among others.

**GLOBAL COMMITMENT**

Working every day in over 80 countries to bring food assistance to millions of children, women and men, WFP must ensure that the food it delivers is safe, nutritious and of good quality. Vigilance is all the more important given the often harsh conditions we operate in. The food we distribute travels long distances by road, sea and air, and ideal storage environments can be difficult to guarantee.

In line with the commitment of the international community to achieving food security and improving population nutrition by 2030, WFP works in collaboration with governments and organizations such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPKO), among others.



**5k**  
TRUCKS



**20**  
SHIPS



**92**  
AIRPLANES

**TAKING FOOD ASSISTANCE EVERY DAY**

Every day, WFP places its fleet in full service to deliver food and other assistance to those most in need, reaching every year the distribution of more than 15 billion meals. By 2017, WFP purchased approximately US\$1.4 billion worth of food. These numbers are at the heart of WFP’s reputation as an emergency agency, which quickly does the scale work in the most difficult places.

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provides common air services to the humanitarian community in very remote and very challenging locations. In recent years, it has contributed to the response to the Ebola outbreak in Africa, the earthquake in Haiti, and other emergency and conflicts.

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