

WFP CoE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Advocacy Services

EMPOWERING
COUNTRIES
TO ACHIEVE
ZERO
HUNGER



World Food
Programme
Centre of Excellence
against Hunger



ADVOCACY SERVICES

The capacity to influence the public agenda, especially in relation to school feeding, is one of the most important contributions of the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil for the fight against hunger and malnutrition and for the Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the main objectives of the Centre of Excellence is to spread the idea of national school feeding programmes as an effective strategy to fight hunger and improving social safety nets, combining the direct feeding of one of the most vulnerable population groups to the strengthening of the local economy. The national school feeding programmes also have the additional benefit of improving the school performance of the children and adolescents, valuing the local culture and facilitating the school attendance, especially for the girls.

To spread this idea, the Centre of Excellence invests efforts in advocacy actions. The Centre staff takes part in events around the world, receives representatives from countries and institutions interested in knowing the work developed at the Centre and prepares evaluations of existing school feeding programmes to suggest ways to improve them. The Centre also exchange experiences with other international cooperation institutions interested in trilateral cooperation.

IDENTIFICATION OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION (SSTC) OPPORTUNITIES

In eight years of activity, the Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil has involved more than 50 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America in South-South cooperation activities to support them in designing and implementing solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with special attention to SDG2 - Zero Hunger. The Centre has provided continued support and technical assistance to 28 national governments, as well as promoting the establishment of the African School Feeding Network with 25 countries. The Centre has also worked in partnership with the African Union to expand investments by African countries in school feeding programmes.

For example, in 2017, the Centre supported a seminar that took place in Maputo, Mozambique, to discuss the role of South-South cooperation in the development of initiatives of social protection, food and nutritional security and gender in the country. Entitled “Innovative Partnerships in Social Protection, Food and Nutrition Security and Gender: Mozambique, Brazil, UN and DFID,” the event was an opportunity to discuss issues of social protection, food security and gender equality, as well as sharing good practices and lessons learned. The event happened under two specific projects, conducted as partnership between UN agencies in Brazil, the governments of Mozambique and Brazil, and DFID, the international cooperation agency of the United Kingdom.

Another strong work in SSTC engagement the Centre of Excellence supports is the Global South-South Development Expo, in partnership with UNOSSC. For instance, at the Global South-South Development Expo in Antalya, Turkey, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), in partnership with the WFP Centre of Excellence, FAO and Unicef, held a side event to discuss the SSTC practices of Brazil. The objective was to promote a critical reflection on cooperation methodologies involving UN agencies and developing countries.

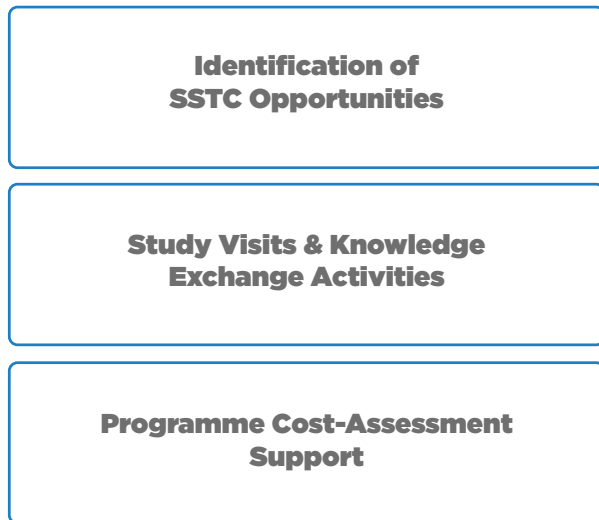
The perceptions and lessons shared in the side event contributed to greater coordination of the SSTC agenda among the UN agencies and expanded knowledge on innovative South-South cooperation practices in Brazil.

In 2018 alone, The WFP Centre organized, co-organized or participated in 20 high-level events to strengthen advocacy for SSTC, Zero Hunger and school feeding. This is part of the WFP Centre’s strategy to engage new partners and strengthen governments’ commitment with improving nutrition, expanding school feeding, and overcoming hunger.

These events help positioning the WFP Centre of Excellence and the World Food Programme as key players in the international cooperation arena. They are also an opportunity for partner countries to share their experiences and showcase their accomplishments.



ADVOCACY SERVICES



STUDY VISITS & EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

As part of its work with SSTC activities, the WFP Centre coordinates and supports various study visits and knowledge exchange activities. Until 2016, this was the heart of the Centre’s work. 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 always remains high. Over 50 study visits have been organized to Brazil since the Centre’s opening in 2011, and still today, various countries request support related to study visits and knowledge exchanges with the Centre of Excellence’s support.

In the first years of operation of the WFP Centre of Excellence, many countries requested study visits to learn about the Brazilian experiences in fighting hunger and poverty, especially the school feeding programme. Eight years later, even though the demand for study visits is still highly present, more countries are requesting remote and onsite technical support from the WFP Centre of Excellence, which includes revision of programmes’ and policies’ documents, remote discussions on the strategies adopted by governments and its implementation, as well as missions to the field.

PROGRAMME COST-ASSESSMENT SUPPORT

Various global crises have reconfirmed the importance of safety nets in providing relief to the millions affected. School feeding is one of the most widely used in-kind safety nets in low, middle, and high income countries. As a result, there is an increasing need to assist governments to design and implement school feeding programmes which can be sustainable investments in human capital.

Studies by the World Food Programme have shown that school feeding is a profitable investment presenting a benefit-cost ratio ranging from a minimum of 3:1 to a maximum of 8:1. These calculated returns were validated to account for different modalities and contexts of implementation (emergency, crisis and development) across countries. The results can be helpful for informing policy dialogue and advocating for the programme with governments and development partners around the world. As such, social protection programmes can contribute to achieve improved productivity and economic growth in developing countries.

Since 2016, the WFP Centre of Excellence has supported various countries with this programme cost-assessment exercise. Cases such as Mozambique, Senegal, The Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zambia are just some of the cases supported. Objectives include the assessment of quantitative returns of investing in school meals programmes, considering different returns in education, future life productivity, health, agriculture and local economy. Results also include a qualitative evaluation on the selected school meals programme from the policymaking cycle’s point of view and existing framework in the country (education, health, nutrition, agriculture and development).

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