

GET TO KNOW  
The Centre of Excellence against Hunger

# WFP BRAZIL



**World Food  
Programme**  
Centre of Excellence  
against Hunger



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# THE PARTNERSHIP

The World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger Brazil has been working since 2011 to bring together countries that face similar challenges in school

meals, strengthening smallholder farming and food and nutrition security. For such, it counts on its partnership with the government of Brazil and other institutions.

We offer technical assistance and a space for peer-to-peer dialogue. Our goal is to support the development of food security, nutrition, and social development policies.

## SOME RESULTS

**+ 70 African, Asian, and Latin American countries** participated in South-South Cooperation activities facilitated by the Centre of Excellence

**+ 50 African countries** committed to investing in school meals under the African Union

**+ 50 study visits** from African, Asian, and Latin American countries to Brazil – an immersion in knowledge, awareness, and building long-term partnerships

**+ 20 countries** made progress in their regulatory or legal frameworks for national school meals and nutrition policies to fight overweight and obesity





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# OUR WORK AXES

The Centre of Excellence has a direct channel of dialogue with governments. Its structure allows it to offer technical assistance to more than 30 countries simultaneously.

We give our technical support in two main axes, always based on the principle of cooperation between countries:

**IMPROVING PROGRAMMES  
AND POLICIES**

**ADVOCACY ACTIONS**

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## IMPROVING PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

**We provide expert support to strengthen government policies and programmes, including:**

- Development and implementation of programmes and policies
- Transition strategies for national ownership of programmes
- Resource mobilisation and sustainable financing
- Development of legal, technical, and regulatory frameworks
- Strategic planning and programme management
- Data analysis and impact assessment
- Policy monitoring and improvement
- Strengthening social participation



## ADVOCACY FOR PROMOTION OF FOOD SECURITY

**We promote structural changes and strengthen priority agendas in food security, nutrition, and sustainable development through:**

- Cost-benefit studies and analyses
- Knowledge dissemination strategies and campaigns
- High-level engagement
- Multisectoral partnerships
- Connecting and strengthening strategic networks
- Exchange of experience and technical cooperation
- Evidence-based decision making

**How to request support from the Centre of Excellence?**

Interested countries and partners can contact us to discuss their needs. Each request is analysed with the applicant in order to build solutions aligned with their priorities.

Please contact the WFP Centre of Excellence by email:  
**[brazil.programme@wfp.org.br](mailto:brazil.programme@wfp.org.br)**

## WHAT ARE OUR SUPPORT MODALITIES?

### Study visit

The study visit is an organised mission for representatives of a country to get to know in practice (or exchange information about) successful policies, programmes and initiatives, whether from Brazil or partner countries. The objective is to promote knowledge exchange and facilitate an adaptation of good practices to partner countries' contexts.

These visits involve delegations that come to Brazil to learn about policies such as the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), the integration with smallholder farming, and other initiatives related to food security, nutrition, and social protection work.

During the visits, there are meetings with authorities, field visits to schools, meetings with

farmer cooperatives, and technical sessions to strengthen learning and facilitate the implementation of solutions in the participants' countries of origin.

We also offer a virtual modality of study visits, with zero cost, which consists in presenting videos on the topics we work on, followed by interactive sessions with experts.

### Technical assistance

We offer technical assistance, working alongside governments to develop policies and programmes, based on their demands and needs, including process reviews, capacity building, monitoring, and stakeholders engagement.

### FACE-TO-FACE

The **face-to-face** support occurs through technical missions, which include training, workshops, advice on designing strategies, primary data collection, implementation of social technologies (for example: water-harvesting cisterns, vegetable gardens or school gardens, seed banks, ecological ovens, among others), and programme monitoring.

These activities strengthen local capacities and promote an exchange of experiences among partner countries within the South-South Cooperation framework.

### REMOTE

**Remote** support it is offered through virtual meetings, online trainings, document reviews, and sharing strategic materials such as studies, guides, and practical tools. This model allows continuous monitoring and facilitates development of local policies without the need for travel or additional costs.

Technical assistance actions, advocacy, and knowledge exchange are possible thanks to the work of WFP in conjunction with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE), and various Brazilian institutions – such as technical areas of the Brazilian government and specialised organisations, universities, and research institutes. This model mobilises qualified specialists, ensures state-of-the-art technical support, and reinforces South-South Cooperation objectives.

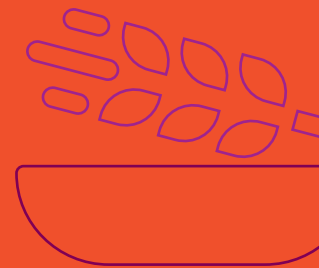


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# OUR THEMES





## SCHOOL MEALS

National school feeding programmes are an effective way to fight hunger. Through international cooperation, we promote an exchange of information on school meal models between countries with the aim of encouraging the offer of healthy and nutritious food for schoolchildren everywhere in the world.

The model developed in Brazil, with the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), integrates education, nutrition, health, and agriculture. The programme reaches more than 40 million students and allocates 30% of its resources to the purchase of food from smallholder farmers, strengthening local production.

### What we do

The Centre of Excellence provides support to countries in designing, reviewing, and strengthening their national programmes. This includes steps such as defining strategies for decision-making processes and providing assistance in the creation of technical committees and interministerial groups that ensure effective policy implementation.

In addition, we offer support to design legal, technical, and regulatory frameworks; assistance to structure financing mechanisms; and promotion of capacity building.

Our work also involves developing monitoring and evaluation strategies, ensuring that programmes are sustainable. All this is done based on Brazilian experience and international best practices, adapting solutions to the reality of each partner country.



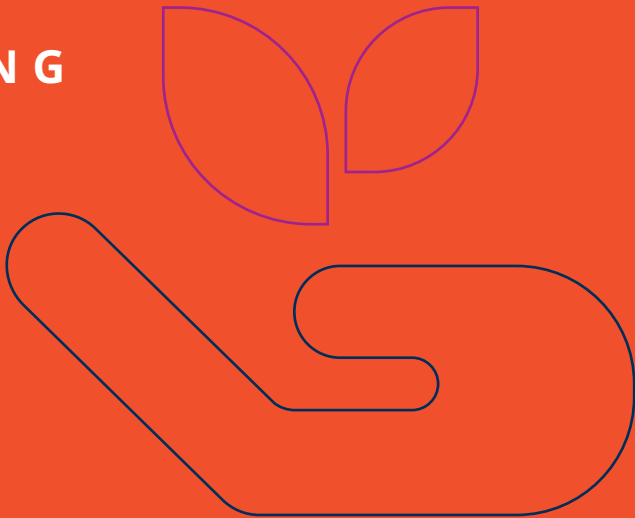
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# SMALLHOLDER FARMING



Smallholder farming contributes to ensuring a country's food and nutrition security. To strengthen it, coordinated policies must combine access to land, markets, technical assistance, and innovation.

In addition, when facing climate challenges, it is necessary to stimulate climate-friendly agricultural practices through technical assistance and the use of accessible technologies.



## What we do

We seek to expand production capacity and organisation of smallholder farmers through dialogue with governments and partners implementing national school meal programmes.

We mobilise experts in sustainable food production to exchange knowledge and create adapted solutions for the challenges of each territory.

We share social technologies for access to water for human consumption and food production, as well as smart agriculture strategies that strengthen sustainable agricultural systems and promote the inclusion of smallholder farmers in the supply chain for institutional markets.



# NUTRITION

The multiple burden of malnutrition refers to the coexistence of different forms of nutritional imbalance — such as subnutrition, overweight, and chronic diseases — often aggravated by socioeconomic factors and inadequate dietary standards.

This phenomenon affects populations in vulnerable situations with greater intensity, where overweight and subnutrition advance simultaneously, reflecting deep inequalities in access to quality food.



## What we do

We work with technical assistance, capacity building, and advocacy, supporting governments and partners in formulating, expanding, and improving cross-sectoral programmes and policies with the potential to reduce the impact of social inequalities on

nutrition and health issues. We help design nutritional guidelines for health, education, social and sustainable development policies, supporting countries in the development of food and nutrition security projects and programmes.







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# FOOD SYSTEMS

Food systems are processes that involve the production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal of food. They encompass a network of factors, including agriculture, fisheries, the food industry, transportation, public policies, cultural preferences, economic issues, and consumer practices.

Food systems are influenced by the environment, and by factors such as biodiversity, the use of natural resources, and the impacts of climate change. Social and nutritional issues such as access to healthy food and reducing hunger and malnutrition strongly impact food systems.



## What we do

WFP's presence in more than 100 countries worldwide enables a broad understanding of the challenges faced in making food systems healthier and more sustainable.

We identify and share best practices and contribute to creating policies that promote healthy and sustainable food systems in Global South countries.

We develop actions with farmers, schools, and rural communities, including agricultural practices, post-harvest, storage, transport, access to markets, and their impact on nutrition.



# SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection refers to policies and programmes for protecting people from poverty and social exclusion throughout their lives, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups.

Social protection systems encompass political and legal frameworks, financing arrangements, digital infrastructures, and other tools to fight hunger and poverty and promote resilience and inclusion.



## What we do

The Centre of Excellence supports governments to improve their own social protection systems, expanding the reach of programmes that help vulnerable populations face crises and shocks.

We promote study visits for countries and partners to get know the Brazilian experience in this area, including the Unified

Health System (SUS), CadÚnico (unified registry for accessing social programmes), and the Bolsa Família income transfer programme.

We also promote sharing knowledge about food and nutrition security tools, such as food banks and solidarity kitchens.



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# S U C C E S S S T O R I E S





## TOGO

Togo's National School Feeding Law, approved in 2020, was inspired by a study visit to Brazil in 2014. The Centre of Excellence provided technical support to align the national school feeding policy with local agriculture.

© WFP/Mariana Rocha



## BANGLADESH

Partnership initiated in 2012 with a pilot project created after a study visit to Brazil, which culminated in the approval of the country's National School Feeding Policy and strategy in 2019.

© WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud





## COLOMBIA AND PERU

Development of programmes for managers in both countries to address the multiple burden of malnutrition.

© WFP/Monica Leon



## KENYA

Support to the development of the National School Meals Strategy approved by the government, which ensured the provision of meals to more than 3 million children from 2020 onwards.

© WFP/Dennis Matendechere





## SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

Transition to nationally-led school meals supported by a cost-benefit analysis from the Centre of Excellence. The collaboration includes nutrition trainings and pilot projects for schools.

© WFP/Ana Mascarenhas

## TANZANIA, BENIN AND MOZAMBIQUE

Economic and social development of communities in the three countries, resulting in improved cultivation of cotton and intercropped food crops.



© WFP/Bismarck Sossa





## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Strengthening smallholder farmers' access to local markets in three districts, especially for school meals programmes.

© WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua



## MALAWI

Since 2012, support has been provided for the formulation of school feeding policies, leading up to the recent nationwide expansion of the program, with multisectoral participation and alignment with local agricultural systems.

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# INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES AND INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

We act globally in the promotion of innovative solutions and participation in forums that boost food and nutrition security. Below, we highlight some of these initiatives.

## VALUING SCHOOL COOKS AND NUTRITIONISTS

The Centre of Excellence, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, and the National Fund for Education Development are developing an international cooperation project to give visibility to the work of school cooks and nutritionists. Through the production of *Vida de Merendeira*, a reality TV series, we disseminate healthy eating practices, value professionals who work in school meals, and promote exchanges of experiences between these Brazilian professionals and others from Global South countries.



## GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY

Led in 2024 by the Brazilian government to encourage the implementation of effective policies and actions to fight hunger, the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty has the WFP as a founding member.

The Centre of Excellence was directly involved in the development of the School Meals Policy Basket, which aims to double the number of children receiving daily school meals in low-income countries by 2030; and access to water policies, expanding it in vulnerable communities in Latin America and Africa by 2030.



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## SCHOOL MEALS COALITION

A global initiative that aims to expand school meals programmes by promoting innovative, sustainable, and evidence-based solutions to support governments to meet their commitments.

The WFP works as Secretariat to the Coalition. Brazil became co-chair in 2023 with the intention of sharing programmes such as PNAE. In this context, the Centre of Excellence offers technical and institutional support to promote the engagement of countries and partners within the Coalition's framework.

## COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES - CPLP

The Centre of Excellence's partnership with ABC and FNDE actively participates in international seminars on School Meals Good Practices in the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), which bring together representatives of Lusophone countries to share experiences and strengthen school meals programmes.

## GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEMS GOVERNANCE

The Centre of Excellence works together with the UN Food Systems Hub (UNFSS) in the convergence between food systems and climate action. In addition, it participates in civil society forums to promote social participation in the International Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) agenda.



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# OUR CONTACTS



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**Our website**  
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