

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Photo: WFP/Natain Giuliano



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

ANNUAL REPORT | 2018

2018

YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2018, the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger has made concrete contributions to strengthening school feeding programmes in 17 countries, benefiting around 4 million children and thousands of smallholder farmers.



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ACTI VIT LES



Photo: WFP/Bruno Magalhães



ACTIVITIES

The WFP CoE continuously supports 30 countries in developing capacity to achieve Zero Hunger. Depending on the national contexts and demands, some countries require even closer technical assistance and remote support. In 2018, 17 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Lao, Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Togo) were directly supported by the WFP Centre to strengthen national capacities to promote sustainable development. Concrete outcomes from this capacity strengthening support enhanced national school feeding policies, programmes, and system components.

The WFP Centre has provided specific support to seven countries in taking ownership of their school feeding programmes through South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives. It also started to support four African countries in connecting smallholder farmers producing food along with cotton to institutional markets, including school feeding programmes.

Funding for all these activities come from various sources, including the countries that are cooperating with the WFP Centre of Excellence. Each country that engages in South-South cooperation needs to invest human and financial resources for the activities to succeed, and their motivation is to access knowledge, skills, and resources that would not be available to them otherwise. Brazil and all 30 countries involved in the WFP Centre of Excellence's activities benefit from a network of experts, resources, technology, and opportunities that help recognizing and responding to the problems and requirements of each country towards sustainable development.

The WFP Centre organized, co-organized or participated in 20 high-level events to strengthen advocacy for South-South cooperation, 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, the World Food Programme and Brazil as key players in the international cooperation arena. They are also an opportunity for partner countries to share their experiences and showcase their accomplishments.

Photo: WFP





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IMPACTS



Photo: WFP/Mariana Rocha



IMPACTS

Some countries are good examples of the kind of impact the South-South cooperation activities of the WFP Centre can generate. With technical support from the WFP Centre, Kenya approved a National School Meals and Nutrition Strategy, which aims to reach 1.6 million children in the next five years. Benin improved its programmatic frameworks and components, which contributed for the mobilization of USD 80 million from the government budget to catalyse the WFP school feeding programme phase-out in the next four years. Côte d'Ivoire approved a school feeding policy and a strategy to transition from a WFP-operated programme to a national one. Burundi approved its national policy, and Burkina Faso is elaborating a school feeding strategy.

Cotton and food security

Benin, Mozambique, Kenya, and Tanzania are part of the Beyond Cotton project, which aims at strengthening food and nutrition security of smallholder cotton farmers. The Beyond Cotton project is an initiative of the WFP Centre of Excellence and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency in partnership with the Brazilian Cotton Institute. It encompasses a view of the whole cotton farming system, linking regenerative agriculture, nutrition, poverty reduction and local development. The project is supporting cotton producers and public institutions in these four African countries to commercialize cotton by-products, such as oil, and associated food crops, such as corn, sorghum, and beans.

Photo: WFP/Natan Giuliano



Advocacy

The high-level events that the WFP Centre supported in different ways aimed to strengthen South-South cooperation for Zero Hunger, leading to the establishment of new partnerships. For example, the Global Child Nutrition Forum took place in Tunisia, with 350 participants from 50 countries and a bold call to action: countries should take ownership of their school feeding programmes. The Beyond Cotton project was presented at the Textile Exchange Sustainability Conference in Milano, which opened a variety of opportunities for the initiative to expand its reach and impact.

The third African Day of School Feeding was held in Zimbabwe, to mark the continent's commitment to advancing school feeding. The WFP Centre, a member of the African Union School Feeding Cluster, has been collaborating with the African Union since 2015 and has co-hosted the African Day of School Feeding since 2016, when it was celebrated for the first time.



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HIGH LIGHTS



Photo: WFP/Mariana Rocha



HIGHLIGHTS

Countries

The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger works with Brazil and 30 countries to provide technical assistance via South-South cooperation. This cooperation approach has positive impacts on countries' sustainable development, in areas such as agriculture, rural development, food security, and nutrition.

It also impacts human resources development in two different ways. First, the school feeding programmes supported by the WFP Centre of Excellence help improve education indicators, especially enrolment, attendance, and performance. Second, the South-South cooperation initiatives create opportunities for governments' staff to strengthen their own capacities to identify and address their countries' challenges to eliminate hunger and improve nutrition.

In 2018, 17 countries were directly supported by the WFP Centre to strengthen national capacities to promote sustainable development. Concrete outcomes from this capacity strengthening support enhanced national school feeding policies and programmes to increase investments and reach and to improve nutrition.

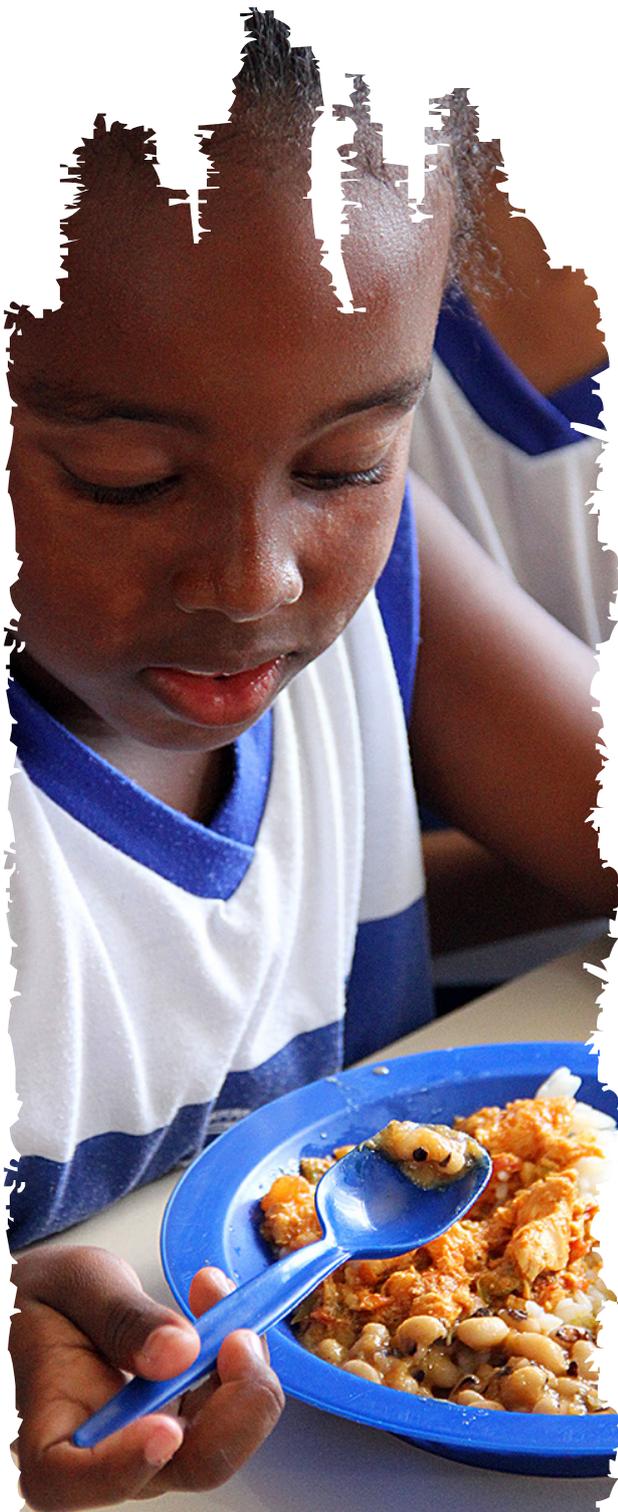


Photo: WFP/Natan Giuliano



HIGH LIG HTS



Photo: WFP/Bruno Magalhães

BENIN

The WFP Centre has been providing technical assistance to improve Benin's school feeding programmatic frameworks. As a direct result, the country allocated US\$ 80 million to the national programme, implemented in partnership with WFP. Benin is also one of the four countries participating in the Beyond Cotton initiative.

BURKINA FASO

The WFP Centre has been providing technical support to the elaboration of Burkina Faso's school feeding strategy.

BURUNDI

The WFP Centre has been providing technical support to the elaboration of Burundi's school feeding policy.

CAMBODIA

The WFP Centre has been gathering and sharing information and concrete guidelines to improve Cambodia's practices in minimum food processing to ensure food safety for the school feeding programme.



HIGHLIGHTS

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Since the study visit of a governmental delegation in 2017, Côte d'Ivoire has been working on a school feeding policy and a strategy to transition from a WFP-operated programme to a national one, with technical support from the WFP Centre. The country also announced the creation of a new centre of excellence similar to Brazil's to share knowledge with countries in the region.

THE GAMBIA

The WFP Centre has been providing technical support to The Gambia to intensify food procurement from smallholder farmers for the school feeding programme.

GUINEA-BISSAU

The Government of Guinea-Bissau elaborated the National Zero Hunger Strategy and a school feeding decree, with technical support from the WFP Centre of Excellence and Country Office.

LAO

The government and the WFP Country Office have been investing in improving Lao's school feeding programme. The WFP Centre is exchanging knowledge and information on different approaches to Zero Hunger with the national and provincial governments and is providing technical support to the country's school feeding policy drafting, approval, and adoption.





HIGH LIG HTS



Photo: WFP/Natan Giuliano

LIBERIA

The Government of Liberia and partners held the National Stakeholder Conference in Home-Grown School Feeding on 27 July, to discuss school feeding's potential as a critical driver of development in the country. The WFP Centre of Excellence presented school feeding experiences from other countries that could be a reference for the implementation of a home-grown school feeding programme in Liberia.

MOZAMBIQUE

In 2018, a new phase of the partnership between Brazil, Mozambique and WFP started with the goal of strengthening institutional and management mechanisms and guiding materials of Mozambique's National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE) via technical assistance. The partnership supports capacity development efforts at different levels and contributes to the planned expansion of PRONAE in the coming years. The country is also part of the Beyond Cotton initiative, which will contribute to generate income for the smallholder farmers and to increase food and nutrition security in rural areas.

NEPAL

the WFP Centre has been providing remote technical assistance to Nepal for an assessment of the country's school feeding programme.



HIGH LIG HTS

KENYA

With support from the WFP Centre of Excellence and country office, the government of Kenya approved a National School Meals and Nutrition Strategy that aims to reach 1.6 million children in five years.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

In 2018, the WFP Centre of Excellence technical team collected and validated data for an assessment on the return on investment of the country's school feeding programme. The cost-benefit analysis will inform the process of transferring the school feeding programme from the World Food Programme to the government.

SENEGAL

In August, the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger received delegations from Senegal and Sierra Leone for a study visit focused on school feeding. The governmental delegations engaged in knowledge exchange activities with Brazilian officials in Brasília and undertook a field trip to Salvador, Bahia state, to see first-hand the links between school feeding and smallholder farming. The WFP Centre has been cooperating with Senegal since 2012 to improve the existing school feeding programme, implemented in partnership with WFP.





HIGH LIG HTS

SIERRA LEONE

A governmental delegation visited Brazil along with Senegal to start the cooperation process with the WFP Centre of Excellence and Brazilian institutions to improve school feeding in the country.

TANZANIA

The country is part of the Beyond Cotton initiative, which will contribute to generate income for the smallholder farmers and to increase food and nutrition security in rural areas.

TOGO

The WFP Centre of Excellence is working with the government to design the Schools of Excellence project, which will launch the local purchase of food from smallholder farmers for the school feeding programme.





HIGHLIGHTS

Cotton

The Beyond Cotton initiative aims to support smallholder cotton producers and public institutions in Benin, Mozambique, Kenya and Tanzania. The project was launched in 2018 and is working to connect cotton by-products – such as seed oil and cake – and associated crops – such as corn, sorghum and beans – to reliable markets, including school feeding programmes. The goal is to generate income for the smallholder farmers and to increase food and nutrition security in rural areas.

In many cotton-producing countries, the main challenge is to find steady markets for cotton by-products and associated food crops. There is usually an assured, growing market for the cotton fibre, but selling the remaining oil and cake and the associated crops that are commonly grown in rotation with the cotton may be difficult.

The profit generated by the commercialization of the cotton fibre is not enough to maintain rural families, and the demand for sustainable cotton fibre remains unmet, due to the lack of interest of smallholder farmers to invest in this production system. By better structuring the value chain of cotton by-products and associated food crops, the Beyond Cotton initiative will increase income and improve the food and nutrition security status of rural families, increase agricultural production and link it to school feeding programmes, and create incentives for more smallholder farmers to invest in sustainable cotton production.

The Beyond Cotton project is being implemented by the Centre of Excellence against Hunger, with coordination of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and financial support from the Brazilian Cotton Institute.





HIGH LIG HTS

African Union

The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger has been working with the African Union and the WFP Africa Office since 2015, when a delegation was in Brazil for a study visit on home-grown school feeding. Since then, the African Union has adopted school feeding programmes as a strategy to promote sustainable development and improve education throughout the continent. Last year, the continent celebrated the third Africa Day of School Feeding in Zimbabwe.

Publication

In 2018, the WFP Centre of Excellence and the African Union launched the study “Sustainable school feeding across the African Union”. It shows that the home-grown school feeding model has multiple benefits for community development, social protection and employment creation, playing an important role in achieving the SDG 2, Zero Hunger, and contributing to human resources improvement throughout the continent. The document also proposes seven practical recommendations for African Union countries to improve and scale-up school feeding initiatives.

Cluster

The African Union also launched the School Feeding Cluster, as part of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa. The WFP Centre is a member of the Cluster is providing technical support to the elaboration of its strategy. The Cluster aims to encourage mechanisms for harmonization of school feeding initiatives within the continent towards achieving AU Agenda 2063 and the SDG 4.





HIGH LIG HTS

Brazil

Brazil has been the main partner of WFP for the implementation of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger, since its inception in 2011. The WFP Centre's South-South cooperation approach, thanks to the support of Brazil, has already influenced 30 countries in improving their school feeding programmes, but the WFP Centre also supports initiatives in Brazil.

Collaborating Centres

In June, the National Fund for the Development of Education (FNDE) held a meeting with the Collaborating Centres for School Feeding and Nutrition to promote the exchange of experiences and technical knowledge on the management of Brazil's National School Feeding Programme (PNAE). These centres are linked to different Brazilian universities and support PNAE through monitoring of the programme in their states and production of technical guidance materials on the different dimensions of the programme. The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger presented its experience of promoting South-South cooperation among developing countries in school feeding.

Super School Cooks

Ten school cooks selected from FNDE's Best School Feeding Recipes Contest participated in a reality TV show promoted by the FNDE, in partnership with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger. The Best School Feeding Recipes Contest had two editions and selected the best recipes served in public schools across the country to highlight the role

of school cooks in promoting healthy and adequate nutrition in schools. Altogether the two editions of the contest totalled more than 5,000 participants and resulted in two publications with the best recipes of food served in Brazilian schools. The new TV series features 13 episodes with skills tests to find the best Brazilian school feeding cook. The show called Super School Cooks is aimed at students, teachers, managers, parents, nutrition professionals, and opinion makers to give visibility to PNAE.

CPLP

The participants of the X Meeting of Ministers of Education of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) issued a final declaration of the event stressing the importance of technical and professional education, literacy, and school feeding to promote the sustainable development of CPLP member states. As part of their recommendations, the ministers of Education highlighted the exchange of good practices among member states to strengthen educational efforts, including school feeding. The X Meeting of Ministers of Education of the CPLP took place in Brazil in March, after the International Seminar: Sustainability of School Feeding Programmes in CPLP Countries. The event was organized by the Brazilian government in partnership with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger. CPLP countries are Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and East Timor.



HIGH LIG HTS

Global Child Nutrition Forum

The Global Child Nutrition Forum, the largest annual international conference on school feeding in the world, celebrated its twentieth edition in Tunis from 21 to 25 October. It had a record participation of 363 representatives from 59 countries, including 30 high-level authorities such as ministers and deputy ministers and 197 women. The Forum's main recommendation was for governments to take ownership of their countries' school feeding programmes and to gradually provide sufficient and regular

funds from national budgets to cover all adolescents and children. The theme was National School Meal Programmes for Food and Nutrition Security and Multiple Social Benefits, a recognition of school feeding's potential to positively impact education, nutrition, health, smallholder agriculture, and broader development. The event was co-hosted by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation and the WFP Centre of Excellence, with support from WFP Tunisia and the government of Tunisia.



Photo: WFP/Isadora Ferreira

Missions

In the first years of operation of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger, many countries requested study visits to learn about the Brazilian experiences in fighting hunger and poverty, especially the school feeding programme. Almost eight years later, even though the demand for study visits is still 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. In 2018, the WFP Centre's technical team undertook missions to The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Lao, Botswana, Mozambique, Burundi, Cambodia, Algeria, Togo, Liberia, and Sao Tome and Principe. In every mission, they met with government officials and WFP country offices technical staff to discuss strategies to elaborate, approve, and implement programmes and policies related to school feeding and nutrition.





HIGH LIG HTS

Partnerships

Building innovative partnerships between governments, companies and organizations is at the core of the WFP Centre of Excellence's strategy to support countries to fight hunger and malnutrition and to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. The flexibility and the impacts reached with its work have made the Centre a partner of choice for countries and supporters. Beyond the partnerships with governments in over 30 countries, with Brazilian public institutions, and with universities, the following partnerships have had significant impact in 2018.

National Fund for the Development of Education

The FNDE is responsible for the execution of educational policies as set by the Ministry of Education, including the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), which benefits over 40 million children in 5,565 Brazilian municipalities and in the Federal District. FNDE has been a WFP Centre of Excellence's partner since its creation in 2011.

Brazilian Cooperation Agency

ABC is part of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its purpose is to negotiate, coordinate, implement, and follow-up programmes and Brazilian projects on technical cooperation, including the WFP Centre of Excellence. ABC has been a WFP Centre of Excellence's partner since its creation in 2011.

Patati Patatá

The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Rinaldi Produções – a company responsible for the clowns Patati Patatá – have joined efforts to promote campaigns and raise funds for initiatives to fight hunger

in Brazil and in the world. Patati Patatá is a pair of clowns very famous in Brazil. For over 30 years, they have been offering quality entertainment to children and their families. The brand is responsible for animations, songs, concerts, circuses and a television show, with wide reach throughout Brazil and Latin America. The shared desire to contribute to building a more just and equitable world, in which children have access to adequate food and quality education, has brought the two institutions closer together for a partnership that will help to disseminate information on the work of the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil and will strengthen fundraising efforts.

GCNF

The Global Child Nutrition Foundation is a non-governmental organization dedicated to expanding opportunities for the world's children to receive adequate nutrition for learning and achieving their potential. The GCNF created the Global Child Nutrition Forum, organized every year in partnership with the Centre of Excellence.

EPRI

The Economic Policy Research Institute is an independent research and non-profit institute based in Cape Town, South Africa. EPRI was responsible for the study on the impacts of school feeding in Africa in partnership with the Centre, the WFP office for Africa, and the African Union.

Unilever

Unilever has a global partnership with WFP. In Brazil, the company partnered with the WFP Centre of Excellence to tap into WFP's technical expertise to campaign against food waste.



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Photo: WFP/Lara Atanasijevic



NUMBERS

4.3
MILLION
CHILDREN

benefited by better school feeding programmes

17
SCHOOL
FEEDING

programmes improved

30
COUNTRIES
receiving continuous support

54
AFRICAN
COUNTRIES

reached through the partnership with the African Union

1.6
MILLION
CHILDREN

to be reached by Kenya's school feeding programme in five years

80
MILLION
DOLLARS

from Benin's national budget to be invested in school feeding in four years

350
PARTICIPANTS

from 50 countries in GCNF

4
COUNTRIES

involved in the Beyond Cotton initiative

20
HIGH-LEVEL
EVENTS



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