



Photo: WFP/George Fominyen



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

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# Annual Report 2020

## Centre of Excellence against Hunger

March 2020

## Dear reader,

Despite the difficulties we are already familiar with, 2020 was a surprising and thought-provoking year.

It was the year in which the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the WFP in recognition of the tireless work of its employees, who are on the front line every day, bringing food to more than 100 million hungry people around the world. It was also the recognition of the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation to solve complex problems such as hunger.

Moreover, it was one of the most challenging years in history for the world's population. There is no country or territory that has not been affected directly or indirectly by the many negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially regarding socio-economic impacts, which threaten to cause setbacks and political losses for the global development gains of recent decades.

For us, it was not different. The restrictions imposed by the pandemic, which suddenly halted face-to-face activities, made travel impossible, and postponed field missions to 2021. We needed to adapt to fully continue the remote technical support activities started in person.

We saw ourselves challenged to accelerate and expand the digital transformations and the Remote Assistance methodology our team had already adopted since 2019. We used it to promote the sustainability of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in supporting countries, as well as to scale up national school feeding programmes, especially through the power of remote assistance to promote considerable cost reduction, decrease physical barriers, and create a stable and cost-effective environment for post-crisis planning.

As a result of COVID-19 control measures, at least 310 million schoolchildren were left with no meals in 162 countries during some part

of 2020. To reduce the negative impacts of school closures, South-South Cooperation, as a means of knowledge exchange and technical assistance, was able to contribute to the adaptation and resilience of school feeding programmes and in the process of safely reopening schools. Remote Assistance was an innovative method to enable, facilitate, and promote exchanges between Brazil and other developing countries even in the pandemic context.

Also in 2020, the Brazilian government, through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was supported by the WFP Centre of Excellence in



Brazil and the WFP offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America in several humanitarian cooperation actions to support countries in their plans to combat COVID-19.

It is true that 2020 brought great challenges and made social inequalities even more evident, but it also brought important learning experiences, development opportunities, and showed that we need to express solidarity, join efforts, and invest in a sustainable future – now more than ever.

We have entered the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving the 17 goals has never been more important. Faced with the negative impacts of the pandemic and with less than 10 years to go before we can achieve the ambitious goals set by the international community, it is essential that we intensify and coordinate our actions and efforts more and better to continue saving and, above all, changing lives.

In this sense, the Centre of Excellence paved the way for a new phase of partnerships with NGOs, local governments, and the private sector to increasingly support actions to combat hunger within Brazil in 2020. It was also a year of creating new projects, such as “Nurture the Future”, which will join efforts from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru in the fight against childhood obesity and malnutrition.

For 2021, we will focus our efforts on continuing the Remote Assistance work for countries in the areas of school feeding and smallholder farming, increasing internal and external advocacy work in favour of public policies that support sustainable food and nutrition security systems. The “Beyond Cotton” project will begin its implementation phase. New partnerships with governments, NGOs, and the private sector will provide new opportunities and ways to face the complex challenges of fighting hunger together.

2021 will also be special because it is when we will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil. We invite everyone to celebrate this special and remarkable moment in our history with us, revisit the many positive results achieved in this period, reflect on the paths we took and on our future, always keeping our greatest goal in mind: to end hunger worldwide.

**Daniel Balaban**

*WFP Representative in Brazil and  
Director of the Centre of Excellence against Hunger*





## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Remote assistance to 6 countries



Indonesia



Mozambique



Nepal



Lesotho



The Gambia



São Tomé and Príncipe

Knowledge exchange services to WFP Regional Bureaux in Africa. Special attention to the Regional Bureau in Dakar, supporting the development of projects with 19 countries.



**15**  
PUBLICATIONS



**13**  
SEMINARS  
and technical workshops



**12**  
LIVESTREAMS  
with media and influencers

**THISWEEK**   
weekly newsletter that reaches more than 1,500 people on all continents



## COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS IN 2020

66,855 visits to the Centre of Excellence website  
22,600 Facebook followers | 17 videos  
4,800 Instagram followers | 20 publications  
117 published articles

## Nurture the Future NEW PROJECT LAUNCHED



### NEW PARTNERSHIPS

with the private sector, NGOs, and local governments



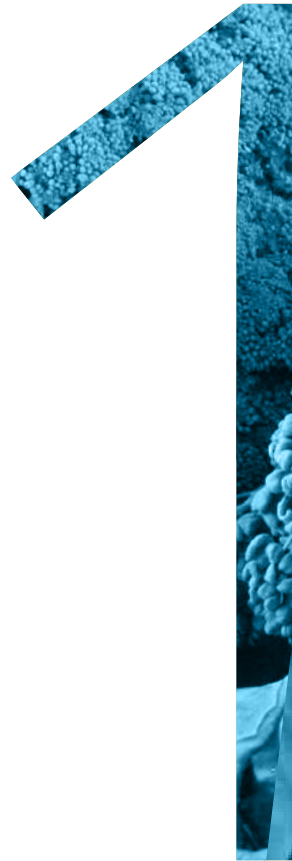
### 20 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS SIGNED FOR FOOD DONATION CAMPAIGNS FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY COVID-19.

Campaigns reached 13 states and the Federal District, with more than 600,000 Brazilians benefited with food (baskets and vouchers) and hygiene kits

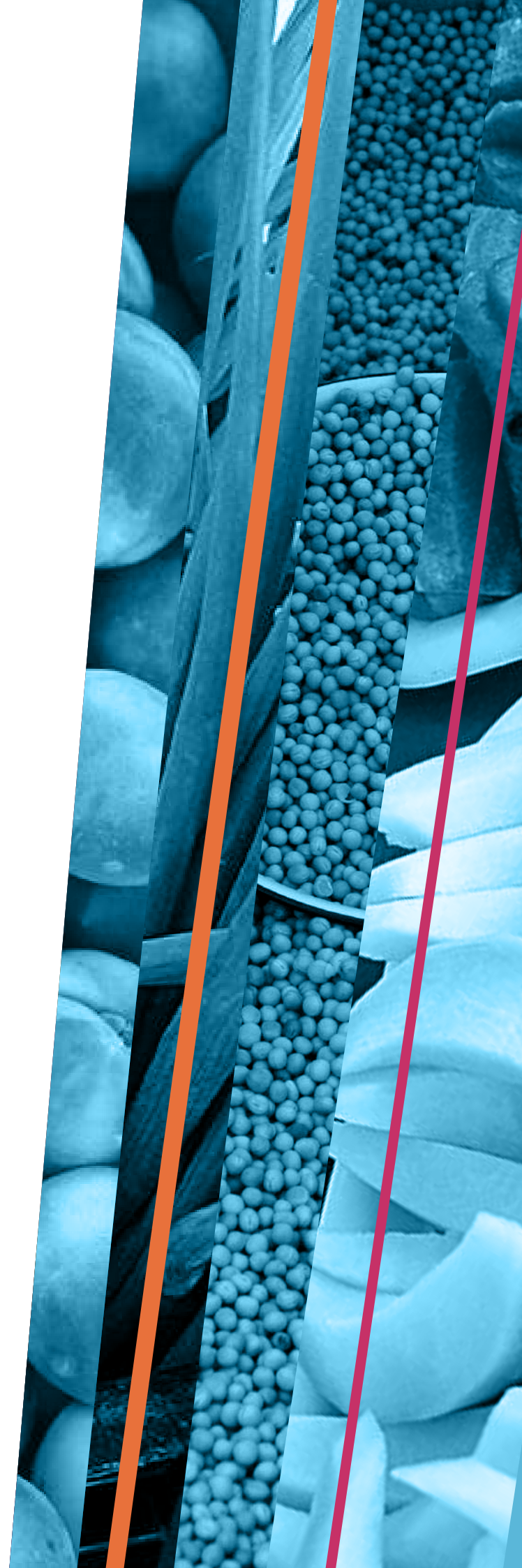


### 20 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA,

Asia and Latin America benefited from humanitarian donations made by the Brazilian government with logistical/operational support from the Centre of Excellence and WFP Country Offices



# WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil **Activities**



# 1 WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil Activities

Remote Assistance combines the global know-how of the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil with the valuable knowledge of the Brazilian experience in food and nutrition security and social protection to promote remote technical assistance to countries. This way of working seeks to support the design, implementation, and delivery of high-quality school feeding programmes; connect these programmes with smallholder agriculture and childhood health and nutrition; and facilitate field operations according to each Country Strategic Plan.

In this process, the Centre of Excellence's technical team assesses the needs and proposes a package for remote technical support. The exchange may involve sharing knowledge through publications; online meetings; review of relevant documents; country-specific webinars; training and capacity-building videos; remote participation in missions, events, workshops, and seminars; and face-to-face events, if demands and funding are available.

At the Centre of Excellence, Remote Assistance has changed how we operate in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). This digital transformation has replaced frequent air travel, prospecting missions, and other extended stays in partner countries, which were needed to promote technical and consultation services, partnerships, advocacy, and knowledge exchanges through SSTC. Remote assistance is an opportunity for countries seeking comprehensive, adaptable, and agile support for a low cost, especially while under pandemic constraints.

Moreover, remote assistance allowed the Centre of Excellence to maintain technical and advisory services to cooperating countries and WFP country offices, even with the impossibility of carrying out face-to-face activities. The specific results of this work are evidenced in the following topics.



Photo: WFP/George Fominyen

# 1.1. Advisory Services and Technical Assistance

## *Technical support to countries*

### **Indonesia: Remote Assistance methodology**

Since discussions that began in 2019, when representatives from both offices met in Siem Reap, Cambodia, for the Global Child Nutrition Forum, WFP Indonesia and the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil have been working jointly to support the national government to strengthen the nutrition improvement for school-aged children. With the COVID-19 crisis, schools around the world were closed and school feeding programmes were suspended, which impacted millions of children's health and nutrition. As part of their efforts to mitigate the pandemic's effects on nutrition for school-aged children, Indonesia requested support from the Centre of Excellence to support the policy dialogues and advocacy for a new strategic plan for improvement of

nutrition for school-aged children and prepare its parameters for the reopening of schools.

Given the new context of the global pandemic, the Centre's support work happened remotely and, in the beginning, only between WFP offices. These virtual exchanges started in 2020 and will continue in 2021. They happen through technical sessions that present good practices in school feeding and nutrition for school children to the WFP Indonesia country office.

The project relies on direct support from the WFP Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division (PRO) in their efforts to foster the use of Virtual South-South Cooperation to overcome challenges brought on by COVID-19.



### **Mozambique: programme design and adaptation**

The WFP Centre of Excellence has been working with the Mozambican government since 2011 as part of its partnership with the Brazilian government, providing technical assistance to the National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE) and, more recently, strengthening capacities to promote the complete transition of the programme management to the government.

The Centre of Excellence provided support to the country through the remote assistance modality, collecting information and creating advocacy materials to subsidize government discussions on intersectoral committees and on the adaptation of school feeding to the COVID-19 pandemic context. The support from the Centre of Excellence

contributed to the continuity of school feeding in 130 Mozambican schools during the suspension of onsite classes throughout 2020, benefiting more than 66,000 students and their families. In December 2020, the Government of Mozambique relaunched the PRONAE Technical Council to strengthen the programme's intersectoral coordination.

In 2020, there was an average increase of 25% in enrolments in schools that benefit from the emergency school feeding programme provided to 81 schools affected by Cyclone Idai, in Sofala province. This emergency programme was carried out with technical support from the Centre of Excellence.

## Lesotho: implementation strategies

In August 2019, the Centre of Excellence began a process of supporting the WFP Country Office in Lesotho and the country's government to strengthen capacities of the School Feeding Secretariat. The goal of this cooperation was to propose a sound strategy for WFP to transfer part of the management of the school feeding programme it has been implementing to the government of Lesotho.

As the first product of this process – and under supervision of WFP Lesotho –, the Centre of Excellence prepared a technical document to create a school feeding management structure within the Ministry of Education. The Ministry and the WFP must evaluate the document to agree on the next steps.

## Gambia: resource mobilization

Following a joint work with The Gambia in 2019, which designed, prepared and submitted a resource mobilization project for agriculture and social assistance, the WFP Centre of Excellence's technical team supported the WFP Country Office and the Government of The Gambia in a process of creating and maintaining national working groups – with a technical and ministerial level of decision-making – on how to conduct international resource mobilization for agriculture and school feeding. The WFP Centre of Excellence supported the country mainly with its application to the international multilateral fund for fragile States, the GAFSP (Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme).

Several methods were applied in the process. Optimizing remote assistance, webinars, calls, and weekly exchanges by electronic means were key to prepare documents, advocacy strategies, and changes necessary to the project for submission to GAFSP. The project, which includes linking the country's School Feeding Programme with the national agricultural sector, food production, and market access for small farmers, was approved by the GAFSP Technical Advisory Committee and Coordinating Unit in April 2020.



### ASSESS AND PLAN

Assess the situation and plan the next steps

### ENGAGE AND COMPILE

Engage in a participatory process and compile the data/information into knowledge and actions

### REFLECT AND FINALIZE

Reflect and finalize the project preparation

Further information on all stages of the WFP Centre of Excellence support to The Gambia in the resource mobilization process *can be found in this publication.*





Photo: WFP/Ivan Canabrava

## Chad Workshop - CERFAM:

The WFP Centre of Excellence participated and supported the Brazilian government's participation in a virtual workshop organized by the WFP office in Chad through the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM) and the WFP Centre of Excellence in China. The workshop took place on December 9th and 10th and aimed to present an overview of home-grown school feeding in the country, discuss best practices in connecting school feeding and agriculture, and create a plan for local purchases within the school feeding programme in Chad for the next five years.

On the occasion, the National Fund for the Development of Education (FNDE) presented an overview of school feeding in Brazil, highlighting the purchases from smallholder farming and the benefits brought on by this practice – particularly for vulnerable communities, Indigenous peoples and Quilombolas. The Brazilian government also highlighted the institutional and operational adjustments necessary to deliver school feeding during the COVID-19 pandemic and the actions taken to amend the National School Feeding Law in order to allow flexibility to distribute food to families even when schools were closed.

## Congo workshop – CERFAM:

Also in partnership with CERFAM, the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil supported the virtual participation of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and FNDE in a workshop organized with the WFP office in Congo. With the theme “Exchanges and Learnings on Processing and Improving the Cassava Value Chain”, the workshop took place on December 16th and 17th and aimed to present an overview of home-grown school feeding in the country, discuss best practices in the connection between school feeding and agriculture and create a plan for local purchases in the School Feeding Programme in Congo for the next five years.

Daniel Balaban, Director of the WFP Centre of Excellence, opened the panel with a speech about global and regional perspectives on home-grown school feeding. In his presentation, he highlighted the importance of social protection networks and long-term school feeding initiatives and emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed unprecedented challenges on countries, strengthening the partnership with the Brazilian government and the importance of remote work methodologies such as Virtual Exchanges.

# Technical Support Material

## Publications

The 2020 production of technical material includes informative documents on the adaptation of school feeding programmes in face of restrictions imposed by COVID-19, case studies, and others. We also produced an interactive e-mail with a compilation of our publications categorized by themes.



Country cases:  
The Gambia

Country cases:  
Togo

Implementing the Brazilian National School Feeding Programme during the Covid-19 Pandemic

School Feeding and Social Protection in Brazil with the COVID-19 Pandemic

School Feeding in Times of COVID-19: What can Governments Do?

WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE  
**VIRTUAL EXCHANGES**  
REMOTE SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

**PUBLICATIONS COLLECTION**  
Discover the resources for technical assistance and knowledge-sharing produced by the WFP CoE team



Guidelines for the Execution of the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Policy Brief #3 - PNAE'S Legal and Policy Basis

Acquisition of Smallholder Farming Products for School Feeding

Guide to Support Technical Activities of PNAE Nutritionists

Guidance Material for Training Food Handlers Working in School Feeding

Reference Guide for School Feeding for Students with Special Dietary Needs

State of School Feeding Worldwide: updates on the National School Feeding Programme

Contributions to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in mapping out School Feeding actions and measures against COVID-19

Publication on the history of the partnership with the African Union

## Support in the Implementation of Programmes and Policies

In the beginning of 2020, the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger, the Brazilian Ministry of Health, through the Coordination of Food and Nutrition from the Health Promotion Department (CGAN/MS), and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ABC/MRE), started their new partnership with the South-South Cooperation Project to tackle the Multiple Burden of Malnutrition in School-aged Children, or "Nurture the Future". The project plans a collaboration between the three institutions (and others that will be defined throughout this journey) to produce evidence and exchange successful experiences between Brazil and other countries that also face the multiple burden of malnutrition, that is, the coexistence of micronutrient deficiencies and malnutrition combined with overweight and obesity.



Photo: WFP/Érika Oliveira

The "Nurture the Future" project focuses mainly on the fight against childhood overweight and obesity, aiming to support processes to strengthen national institutions and key nutrition and health sectors for the management of food and nutrition policies in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic with its unprecedented impacts and profound consequences for food and nutrition security worldwide, some of the project activities planned for 2020 were carried out virtually:



OCTOBER 2020

First virtual meeting between Brazil, Colombia and Peru, partner countries of the "Nurture the Future" project. After Colombia and Peru's formal acceptance in September, the meeting marked the beginning of the information exchange, project alignment and adjustments to the schedule of activities for the coming months. This was the first time that all country counterparts could meet virtually. Until then, negotiations took place individually with participation of the WFP offices in their respective countries.

DECEMBER 14TH AND 15TH, 2020

The WFP Centre of Excellence held the first International Seminar under the "Nurture the Future" project. The event was organized in partnership with the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), which are WFP partners in this project, and was attended by technical teams from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru.

The seminar's goal was to present and discuss food and nutrition policies, focusing on health sectors in the three countries, to provide inputs for the development of the next products. These products will include preparation of comparative analyses on how policies are structured within the topics discussed in each country, also bringing perspectives on how to improve food, nutrition, and health conditions in their populations.

2020 - 2021

A Policy Brief called "Childhood Obesity: Strategies for Control and Prevention" presents a literature review of the main global strategies and policies to combat the multiple burden of malnutrition, specifically overweight and obesity. The publication will offer support to strengthen decision-making on the subject between Brazilian policy makers and South-South cooperation spaces between countries. The document is scheduled for release in the first half of 2021.

## 1.2 Partnership Promotion

### *UN partners*

Given the global pandemic context, the group of UN agencies and representatives in Brasília organized the Brazil Task Force Working Group for the UN Brazil Framework for the Socio-Economic Response and Recovery to Covid-19. The group brought together representatives from agencies for meetings and exercises to map the UN response and actions to combat the COVID pandemic in Brazil, which culminated in the production of the joint document “Socio-Economic Framework for response and recovery after Covid-19”.

In September 2020, the WFP Centre of Excellence participated in a webinar on the health and well-being of students and teachers in Portuguese-speaking African countries. The event was the 4th webinar of an online series on the return of onsite classes in Portuguese-speaking countries in the context of Covid-19 and is the result of a partnership between the Ministry of Education of Cape Verde and regional offices of UNESCO and UNICEF. The meeting aimed to promote an exchange of experiences and knowledge about how health and education professionals can act together to ensure the physical and psychosocial well-being of the entire academic community. The WFP Centre of Excellence also supported the participation of the National Fund for the Development of Education (FNDE), represented by the General Coordinator of the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE). The presentation addressed the Brazilian experience and the release of a document with recommendations for the execution of the programme.

Strengthening its connection with Latin America, the WFP Centre of Excellence also supported the planning and presentation of the virtual event "Presentation on guidelines to support the planning and preparation of processes of school reopening in the context of COVID-19" co-organized by UNICEF, UNESCO and the WFP Regional Bureau in Panama.

We also participated in the webinar "Managing continuity and preparedness of school feeding programmes under COVID-19 and the South-South Cooperation role", organized in partnership with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and conducted by the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG). The virtual event brought together experts to discuss the challenges of the new coronavirus pandemic and analyse the current global landscape and the future of school feeding programmes. The full webinar and a summary for publication can be found on the platform [sp.org](https://sp.org) [here](#).



Photo: WFP/Gerardo Aguilár

# Strategic partners

## Brazilian Government

Throughout 2020, the WFP Centre of Excellence was very attentive and engaged in its partnership with the Brazilian government. In addition to the constant participation in technical committees and meetings, elaboration of technical information, innovation proposals for the project, and support in international exchange events, the Centre of Excellence highlighted and gave visibility to the partnership in publications, especially in the [Togo edition of the Country Cases Series](#), which presents results achieved in the country with support from the Centre of Excellence and through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Moreover, the Centre of Excellence, together with the National Fund for the Development of Education (FNDE) and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), accompanied meetings with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), under ABC leadership, for School Feeding actions in the COVID-19 context.

As an activity within the framework of the partnership with the Brazilian government, the Centre of Excellence supported the organization and participated in the online event “Digital Solutions for Cooperation in COVID-19 times”, under the leadership of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC). The webinar brought ABC, the Centre of Excellence, FAO, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) together for the first time for an event in celebration of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation.



# National and International Policy Dialogue

Mobilization work and participation in policy dialogue and innovative activities to modernize food systems are part of the WFP Centre of Excellence's strategy and are at the centre of the activities developed in 2020. Learn more about some of them:



The Centre of Excellence was cited in Textile Exchange's 2020 Organic Cotton Market report. The article highlights sustainable cotton production as a way to eradicate hunger, and the "Beyond Cotton" Project, a partnership between the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and the Brazilian Cotton Institute, was selected as one of the case studies that has been contributing to this goal.

For the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger, the publication represented a recognition of Beyond Cotton's innovative strategy, which aims to improve commercialization channels for food and cotton by-products in local markets (public or private).



## WORKSHOPS

In February 2020, the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil participated in a technical meeting and contract signing ceremony for the purchase of cotton from the 2020 harvest from families assisted by the NGO Diaconia. The Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Diaconia formalized the partnership in late 2019. The workshop addressed the dynamics of the production and sale of cotton and other intercropped products, which is essential information to build a good practices working agenda that will serve as inspiration for other countries under the "Beyond Cotton" project.

The Centre of Excellence participated in a workshop to strengthen capacities in business and markets for the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)'s South-South and Triangular Cooperation projects that involve cotton, the "Beyond Cotton" project being one of them.

The projects cover Latin American and African countries and are highlighting the need to also give visibility to good practices that are being introduced in both regions. From those good practices, it will be possible to propose new discussions with the textile sector on increasing the value of fibres and producing through smallholder farming and sustainable models. In our participation, we highlighted experiences gathered by the "Beyond Cotton" project to help build common strategies, since there are global actors who are potential buyers in these markets. This common strategy would therefore bring benefits to projects in both Africa and Latin America.

The Centre of Excellence engaged the socialprotection.org team for the "Digitizing WFP's South-South knowledge Brokerage Model" workshop, which addressed issues on digitizing South-South Cooperation practices organized by the WFP Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division (PRO) and the WFP Innovation Accelerator Unit (INKA). A team from the Centre of Excellence also attended the workshop.



## FORO ABC ALIMENTA MADRID

We also participated in Foro ABC Alimenta Madrid, an event that brought together experts, associations, and representatives of the gastronomy sector. Participants analysed the challenges farmers face in Spain and discussed trends in the food and nutrition sector, addressing changes in consumption habits and innovative solutions. The team presented WFP's global work in distributing food in emergencies and spoke about the importance of valuing local agriculture and local purchases to supply programmes such as school feeding – a strategy proposed by the “Beyond Cotton” project.



## ORGANIC COTTON ROUND TABLE TEXTILE EXCHANGE

We participated in the regional Organic Cotton Round Table (OCRT) organized by Textile Exchange. OCRT is a global platform of actors that supports and brings the organic cotton community closer together to bring inspiration, mobilization, and tools for action.

Edited Illustrations by Flaticon and Noun Project



Photo: Image from the internet

## *Humanitarian cooperation activities with ABC – fighting COVID-19*

In a spirit of solidarity and empathy, the Brazilian government, through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), carried out several humanitarian cooperation activities to support countries in their plans to combat COVID-19. To execute these actions, the Brazilian government had support from the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil and WFP offices in several countries.

Resources provided by the Brazilian government were, in most cases, used to support countries in the purchase of personal protective equipment, hospital supplies, and medicine. Whenever possible, the purchase was made locally. The selection of items was carried out in coordination with local Brazilian embassies, who also supported deliveries in each selected country.

By the end of 2020, Brazilian aid had benefited more than 20 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. These humanitarian cooperation actions are expected to extend throughout 2021, in view of the long-lasting effects of the pandemic.

# 1.3 Advocacy Services

Within the “Beyond Cotton” Project framework, the year 2020 was focused on advocacy work with local and country actors so that country-project documents reflected the main findings recorded following missions and local research.

The project sought to understand and mobilize actors in local cotton chains to create a bond between buyers and certified producers, using certification as the main element to ensure quality and safety. If the food market is created or enhanced to purchase certified intercropped food crops, smallholder farmers will be more interested in the cotton certification process. Food buyers exist, as the example of WFP itself and institutional purchasing programmes, but they demand minimum requirements in quality and volume.

By using the WFP local expertise in the country and the fact that it is the largest buyer of staple foods from the African continent, the initiative sought to understand how to make the Home-grown School Feeding Programme a key part of this plan, as it promotes a local and steady demand for food that can easily be provided by farmers and may boost demand in the market for the world's most nutritious foods, ensuring that farmers get a better price for their production due to the traceability of the certification.





# 2

## Outcomes



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

# 2 Outcomes

## *Results in countries*

In 2020, the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil continuously supported 11 countries in Africa and Asia<sup>1</sup> in advancing their efforts to achieve **Sustainable Development Goal 2 targets**, and maintained close relations with 19 others, where development assistance is still on the horizon. With South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) approaches and Country Capacity Building, the Centre of Excellence supported its partners with the application of various tools. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many activities were conducted digitally, including support for the design and implementation of 11 national policy documents,<sup>2</sup> as well as the organization of 13 events on school feeding, smallholder farming and nutrition in Brazil and other countries. In addition to that, we offered **assistance to national government entities** to mobilize more than USD 16 million from multilateral partners to scale up and deliver home-grown school feeding to more than 74,000 beneficiaries.

Another important result was the creation of the **"Nurture the Future"** project, a partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, to multiply the Brazilian experience in food and nutrition with a special focus on the multiple burden of malnutrition. The project is a partnership with Peru and Colombia.



Photo: WFP/Alejandro Chicheri

<sup>1</sup> Benin, Gambia, Tanzania, Lesotho, Mozambique, Burundi, Nepal, Kenya, Lao, Indonesia, São Tomé and Príncipe, as well as the WFP Regional Bureau in Dakar

<sup>2</sup> Benin, Togo, Gambia, Tanzania, Lesotho, Mozambique, Burundi, Nepal, Lao, Indonesia, in addition to the WFP Regional Bureaux in Panama and Dakar

Moreover, with resources from the Brazilian government, the Centre of Excellence continued to support countries in their **transition processes of food and nutrition programmes** in 2020. With this partnership, the Centre also completed a first five-year programme cycle with the African Union, delivering policy dialogue, advocacy, and coordination mechanisms for the structure of the Continental Home-Grown School Feeding Cluster. The partnership with the **African Union** is supported by the WFP Liaison Office, the AU and the WFP School-Based Programmes Division.



In a context of stagnant financial resources, covering the costs of technical assistance has been a challenge. To address this issue, the WFP Centre of Excellence has continuously worked with resource allocation to meet demands. In parallel, the office has been using a **remote assistance strategy** called Virtual Exchanges, through which countries have access to online advocacy and knowledge products.

In 2020, the Centre of Excellence also underwent crucial transformative changes regarding its approaches and methodologies as a division of WFP's Programme and Policy Development Department (PD). The Centre continued its work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 to strengthen the capacities of countries to deliver SDG 2, reinforcing WFP's **leadership in international development** and highlighting the value of the **partnership with the Brazilian government**, the Centre of Excellence's most important partner, through the National Fund for the Development of Education (FNDE), the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), and the Ministry of Health.



The response and adaptation to the conditions imposed by the pandemic resulted in contacts with new countries and **promotion of new partnerships**. As of March 2020, the office invested more efforts in digital partnerships and transformations, changing internal workflows. The office used an improved version of the Virtual Exchanges methodology. Despite a range of negative impacts, the quick repositioning allowed the Centre to continue to support all activities and deliver assistance to The Gambia, Indonesia, Lesotho, and Nepal.

In addition, Regional Bureaux, Country Offices, and Headquarters Divisions have been increasingly requesting support from the Centre of Excellence in Brazil for systemic approaches while focusing on emergency and post-crisis operations. In the first quarters of 2020, the Centre of Excellence in Brazil prioritized the plans to launch the School Feeding Strategy of the Regional Bureau in Dakar through remote assistance, and will continue to do so in 2021, also through digital tools.

## Building partnerships

Although 2020 was an atypical year for face-to-face meetings with partners, the WFP Centre of Excellence managed to excel in the numbers and reach of its partnerships. Almost **20 partnership agreements were signed** to:

- raise awareness of food donations for families affected by COVID-19 in the Brazilian territory;
- launch awareness-raising and mobilization campaigns in Brazil for sustainable production, food sovereignty, and promotion of food and nutrition security;
- share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned on the design, implementation, modalities, innovations, and commitment of civil society, multilateral funds, and corporations in national strategies for food security and nutrition;
- organize joint events, seminars, and conferences;
- promote and support projects and programmes of food and nutrition security; and
- carry out campaigns and other fundraising efforts.



Photo: Diaconia

The list of partners, which are essential for the success of WFP activities, includes state and municipal governments, private sector companies, non-governmental organizations, academic entities, international organizations, among others.

Campaigns were carried out to **distribute food and hygiene kits** to the most vulnerable in this challenging year. WFP's efforts in the campaigns reached 13 states and the Federal District. More than 600,000 Brazilians benefited from food (baskets and vouchers) and/or hygiene kits in the five regions of the country. Donations were distributed by partner institutions, which showed a great example of what can be done through a wide network of partnerships.



## *Beyond Cotton Project*

The "Beyond Cotton" Project reached an important milestone in 2020 by signing the Mozambique country project, one of the four that are part of the cooperation project. The document was signed by the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger, the WFP office in Mozambique (project executors), the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the Government of Mozambique (through the Cotton and Oilseeds Institute), and the Federal University of Lavras (UFLA). The project's aim is to increase production, local income and food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers. In Mozambique, about 1,500 farmer families and approximately 31,000 students from the Mozambique National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE) will be benefited. Learn more about the project [here](#).



Photo: WFP/Marco Frattini



Photo: Image from the Internet

# African Union

2020 also marked the five years of the first work cycle between the WFP and the African Union (AU), which had direct and indirect participation from all 54 member countries. In this first cycle, the Centre of Excellence in Brazil and the WFP Liaison Office for the AU (African Global Office) were important articulators and focal points of technical and political leadership.

In 2020, the Centre of Excellence and the African Global Office completed the delivery of a package of instruments that operationalize the Continental School Feeding Group and Network as part of the Continental African Education Strategy (CESA). With this in hand, the AU can now take ownership and implement the group's activities as an African space for discussion and technical support.

The joint work began in 2015, when AU representatives and ministers from African countries came to the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil to learn about the country's school feeding experience. As a result of the South-South Cooperation efforts with Brazil and the advocacy work of the WFP office in Africa, the AU Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) decided to:

- ▶ include home-grown school feeding programmes in the Continental Education Strategy;
- ▶ promote an AU formal resolution, seeking commitment of member states to school feeding; and
- ▶ present evidence to advocate for home-grown school feeding programmes across Africa.

[Learn more about this journey here.](#)



Photo: WFP/Bruno Magalhães



Photo: WFP



# Internal **Work**

# 3 Intern Work

## 3.1 Strategic Planning

### *Activities with the WFP Headquarters*

#### School Feeding

In 2020, the Centre of Excellence restructured the technical assistance work with countries, starting with an internal look at the organization. In this sense, WFP offices around the world quickly mobilized to produce and share any data and information that could support countries in facing the challenges brought on by the pandemic. Faced with the global scenario of school closures and disruption of school feeding, the actors involved needed to respond collectively, in a coordinated way, to provide support to countries.

In 2020, the Centre of Excellence supported the school feeding unit at WFP Headquarters in developing key products to guide countries and regional offices in mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on schools and continuing programmes.

Among the actions carried out was the support to the "State of School Feeding Worldwide" publication with data and technical chapters on the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) and on the work of the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil. The contributions showed good practices in monitoring and evaluating the Brazilian programme, in addition to the main results of the last ten years of the WFP's work in Brazil. [The report was published in February 2021.](#)





## South-South and Triangular Cooperation digital tools

### Regional Support

Due to physical distancing and travel restrictions, consultations to countries' governments and other participants could not be carried out in full and were performed through remote contact with national actors. Thus, remote data collection methods were used to design the Regional School Feeding Implementation Plan (RBIP) of the WFP Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa. The WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil has been supporting the WFP Regional Bureau in Dakar to prepare the RBIP by adapting Virtual Exchanges.

In the first phase, between March and September 2020, the Centre of Excellence in Brazil assisted the Regional Bureau to set priorities with its Country Offices through a series of reviews and technical webinars. In the second phase, between September 2020 and March 2021, the planned activities included national-level consulting processes with governments and relevant actors to discuss the national vision, plans, targets, objectives, priorities, budget, support, and expectations of the WFP's role regarding school health and nutrition.

Between September and December 2020, the Regional Bureau in Dakar invited all 19 WFP country offices in the region to respond to two data collection forms and encouraged all country offices to hire expert consultants to conduct reviews and data collection. The consultants validated all data collection and knowledge generated with governments and WFP school feeding focal points before sharing with the Regional Bureau for analysis and synthesis.

Questionnaire results will support the Dakar office and WFP Country Office teams in their planning exercise, including decision making and prioritization of the strategy workflow and related plans to develop an evidence based RBIP for the region's school feeding strategy. RBIP has the potential to reach and benefit more than 18 million schoolchildren.

Besides RBIP, the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil began remote assistance work in 2020 to develop an additional document that will serve as an evidence-based tool for all regional offices

in Africa. The Regional Bureaux in Cairo, Dakar, Nairobi and Johannesburg have commissioned the University of the Witwatersrand's Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR-AA) to provide a realistic analysis of best practices, needs, and gaps in school health and nutrition on the continent. This document will serve as a reference of intelligence and structure to think about the application of RBIP in national contexts from 2021 onwards.

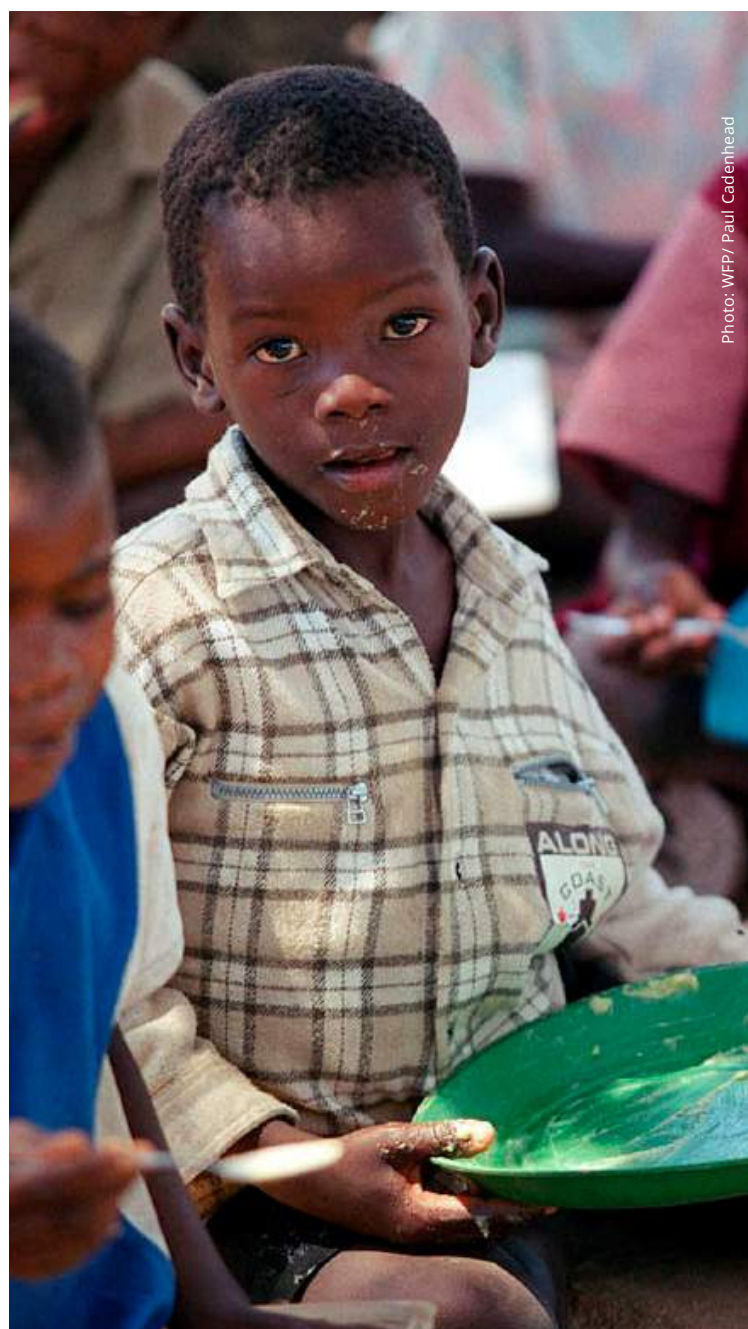


Photo: WFP/ Paul Cadenhead

## Global Support

The WFP seeks innovative solutions to transform emergency responses and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2: eradicate hunger by 2030 in communities impacted by COVID-19 and beyond. More than ever, the knowledge, innovations, and technologies available in developing countries will be needed to achieve this goal. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is an effective mechanism to leverage these solutions and bring more countries together to help each other in times of crises that affect the food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations.

WFP host governments have been increasingly requesting support to share their solutions through knowledge-sharing mechanisms (e.g.: knowledge centres, knowledge platforms, innovation centres etc.) or seeking assistance from the WFP to explore relevant knowledge to address their hunger and malnutrition-related needs.

COVID-19 has already changed the way WFP mediates SSTC to leverage technology and innovation in South-South exchanges. For example, WFP Country Offices have adapted to virtual modalities such as online training, remote assistance, and policy dialogue. WFP's network of Centres of Excellence, including Brazil, China, and Côte D'Ivoire has also adapted to support countries in a virtual environment through knowledge sharing platforms and virtual exchanges.

There is still much to be learned from the COVID-19 adaptation experience, taking stock of the lessons from WFP and the experiences of leading external partners in South-South mediation. It is also an appropriate time to predict trends for the near future, such as the growing importance of technology, artificial intelligence, and digitization. The expectation is that all of this will transform the way we mediate knowledge and strengthen partner networks in the global south to combat hunger and malnutrition around the world.

To collaborate with this approach, the WFP Centre of Excellence has supported the global SSTC team at the WFP Headquarters on actions that include:

### **Technical Assistance and Country Capacity Strengthening Service (PROT), WFP office in Mozambique and publication of best practices of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**

Publication of the process and results of the partnership with the African Union; Remote Assistance with Nepal and The Gambia; Mozambique School Feeding Programme (PRONAE).

### **United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Webinar**

Event on global school feeding responses in times of COVID and the role of South-South Cooperation, held on July 21th, with participation from the Centre of Excellence in Brazil, WFP's School-based Programmes division, UNOSSC, Ministry of Education of Colombia, Ministry of Education of Cambodia and WFP office in Mozambique.

## Workshop on innovation

The WFP Centre of Excellence was invited to participate in an online workshop organized by the Technical Assistance and Country Capacity Strengthening Service (PROT), and the WFP Innovation Accelerator. The Centre team presented its Remote Assistance project and digitization forms of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) that contribute to the WFP Executive Director's priority process and to actions during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. In May, we participated in a preparatory meeting with PROT to design materials about remote assistance to assist the presentation of the Director of the Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division (PRO).



Photo: WFP/ Paul Cadenhead

## SSTC Taskforces - Global Team

The Technical Assistance and Country Capacity Strengthening Service (PROT) organized a global task force with key South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) actors. The Centre of Excellence in Brazil was assigned to the working group that supports the mapping of SSTC actors within the organization. The working group aims to organize the WFP's methodological and concrete SSTC efforts, providing the basis for structured, coordinated, and coherent actions between different offices, responding both to the Strategic Plan and its digitization processes and to a new SSTC strategy for the WFP. This workshop was a continuation of the Global Meeting that took place in Rome in 2019 and aimed to bring together directors from country

offices, various divisions of the WFP headquarters and a few regional bureaux to discuss the South-South Cooperation work plan for the coming years.

An interactive dialogue will be facilitated by the WFP with a select group of senior directors. Different WFP offices will organize focal group conversations to catalogue their perspectives and share guiding issues for interventions. The dialogue will contribute to, among other things, strengthen South-South partnerships and inform the WFP's vision of an effective approach to South-South knowledge mediation over the next five years to add value to SSTC partners in need of solutions to combat hunger and malnutrition.

## 3.2 Communications

The WFP Centre of Excellence shares activities and disseminates good practices in school feeding and South-South Cooperation through articles and publications on its website (in Portuguese and English) and on the UN Brazil page. WFP activities in Brazil are disclosed in the weekly newsletter ("This Week"), edited in Portuguese and English and distributed to more than 1,500 people on all continents. The distribution list consists of decision-makers, government officials, representatives of international organizations and NGOs. In 2020, a total of 117 stories were published on the website.

Highlights are also posted on the Centre's official accounts on Facebook (21,666 followers at the end of 2020), Twitter (2,900 followers), Instagram (4,827 followers), and LinkedIn (625 followers). It is also important to note that the Centre's website, where the main news and presentation information are hosted, has been redesigned with new features and a better interface to serve countries and partners. In 2020, the website recorded 67,000 visits, with almost 28,000 unique visitors.

The most prominent content produced by the Centre of Excellence is also posted on the UN Brazil website and social media. The UN Brazil Facebook page had almost 70,000 followers at the end of 2020 and its Twitter and Instagram profiles had, respectively, 365,000 and 1 million followers. In 2020, the UN Brazil website had more than 17.6 million visits, with 2,375 articles published in Portuguese. Moreover, the communication team produced 17 videos and produced/formatted folders, flyers, policy briefs, and translations, with a total of more than 27 publications in 2020. All remote assistance material and publications mentioned in previous activities have been translated and shared through WFP's website, "This Week" and WFP's social media in Brazil.

The work with friends and partners of the WFP (personalities and influencers in Brazil) yielded several impactful actions, with the participation in 12 livestreams with journalists and influencers. One example was an Instagram live event on combating food waste with actress Ursula Corona, which had more than 6,500 views. We also supported the Director in 54 interviews with national and international media throughout the year.





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