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World Food Programme
Centre of Excellence
against Hunger

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Annual Report 2021

Centre of Excellence against Hunger

March 2022

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Dear reader,

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report with some highlights of the activities carried out by the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil in 2021.

Last year, we entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic and many challenges and restrictions imposed in 2020 persisted. It was also when we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the creation of the Centre of Excellence, in which I had the immense satisfaction of participating. Throughout the year we remembered important moments of our journey, which served to renew our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially for reduction of extreme poverty (SDG 1), with the consequent eradication of hunger by 2030 (SDG 2), through partnerships and cooperation (SDG 17).

It is important to note that, in 2021, the Centre of Excellence stayed on the path of adapting its operations to face the increasing challenges imposed by the pandemic and the increase in inequality around the world. It was a year in which we consolidated and expanded new work practices – mostly remote – to support countries and local partners, strengthening South-South Cooperation actions to achieve SDGs 1, 2, and 17.

Despite the difficulties, 2021 was also a year in which we saw an increase in the number of people who were able to participate virtually in activities previously carried out exclusively in person: national, regional, and international dialogues on policies to fight hunger and promote food and nutrition security; building consensus and producing knowledge; and mobilization of stakeholders for coordinated global actions, such as the first-of-its-kind Food Systems Summit. Launching the Global School

Feeding Coalition was another important moment for strengthening sustainable school feeding programmes around the world – an initiative that we support.

In addition, we worked extensively to produce publications, organize technical seminars, and promote other forms of dialogue to build and strengthen policies in the areas of nutrition, school feeding, and smallholder farming.

The Nurture the Future project, for instance, launched several publications that highlight strategies for prevention of childhood obesity, within the context of fighting the multiple burden of malnutrition, which is the project's goal.

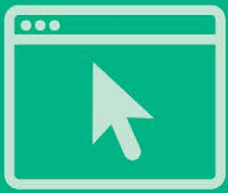
We also launched the “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil”, which had Lesotho as the first participating country. The Visit is anchored in the Virtual Exchanges methodology, developed in partnership with the Brazilian government to disseminate good practices to cooperating countries.

As part of the Beyond Cotton Project, we celebrated the start of field work in Mozambique and advanced negotiations for the annual work plans in other participating countries. In addition, we strengthened strategic partnerships with the civil society, and public and private sectors supporting initiatives in Brazil and around the world.

The planet has been showing signs of saturation in light of the current production and development models. We must rethink ways that place human beings and the planet at the centre of our policies. In 2022, we will remain committed to the fight to reduce inequalities and build a world without hunger and, to achieve that, I hope to be able to continue to count on your support and collaboration.

Daniel Balaban

WFP representative in Brazil and Director of the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger



67,000 website views



84 graphic and visual materials created



58 press queries



10 publications



15 partnerships signed or renewed



10 countries benefited from humanitarian donations made by the Brazilian government with logistical and operational support from the Centre of Excellence and WFP Country Offices

Remote assistance to **6** countries

Lesotho



Peru



Indonesia



Nigeria



Namibia



Romania



ACTIVITIES OF THE WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE BRAZIL

1



ACTIVITIES OF THE WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE BRAZIL



The Advisory and Technical Assistance Activities carried out by the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil include activities of programme and policy design and implementation; support to countries in transitioning WFP-operated programmes to local management; support to smallholder farmers' access to supply chains and markets; and project preparation for accessing funds. The Centre of Excellence has also expanded its role in supporting actions to promote food and nutrition security.

Other priority areas include promotion of partnerships in various spheres, including the public and private sectors, civil society, and universities; support to advocacy initiatives; and knowledge building and management, with a robust production of publications in several areas. Here are the main highlights of the year:

1.1 Partnerships Promotion

The Centre of Excellence's partnerships promotion work includes coordination and facilitation of regional networks; facilitation of regional and international policy dialogues; and multisectoral coordination and mobilization of stakeholders. In 2021, the Nurture the Future and Beyond Cotton teams, in addition to the Programme team, performed several activities with strategic partners to promote actions for adequate and healthy eating and strengthening smallholder farming.

NURTURE THE FUTURE PROJECT

Throughout 2021, the Nurture the Future project continued to work with cooperating countries (Brazil, Colombia, and Peru), despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on face-to-face events. The adoption of a virtual and agile working methodology allowed knowledge production and event organization with participation of key partners and interested public

in several countries. Restrictions on travel and field activities meant that long development phases were replaced by simplified processes, making it possible to achieve the expected results in less time.



Photo: WFP

Some of the main activities and products delivered by the Nurture the Future project include technical documents on prevention of childhood obesity in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru; informative videos for advocacy actions; and regional, national, and international dialogues on the topic. In addition, the WFP Centre of Excellence is a signatory to a national commitment to prevent childhood obesity, supporting a national campaign on the theme launched by the Brazilian Ministry of Health with several actions to curb the advancement of childhood obesity in the country, including two new regulations.

One regulation instituted the National Strategy for Prevention and Attention to Childhood Obesity (Proteja), which seeks to articulate the initiatives in the states, the Federal District, and municipalities. Proteja presented recommendations in the Policy Brief "Childhood obesity: strategies for prevention and care", launched by the project partners in early 2021.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AS PART OF THE NURTURE THE FUTURE PROJECT

The UN General Assembly nominated 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, creating an opportunity to highlight the role of these foods in human nutrition, food security and health, as well as to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, several UN agencies carried out various actions throughout the year to raise awareness of the nutrition and health benefits of consuming fruits and vegetables, to promote diverse, balanced, and healthy diets and lifestyles, and to reduce food loss and waste.

Including the theme of production, supply and consumption of fruits and vegetables in a strategy to encourage information networks supports countries to achieve the ultimate Nurture the Future goal: implementing policies capable of reversing the multiple burden of malnutrition, especially childhood obesity. For this reason, the Centre of Excellence joined efforts with the Ministry of Health, FAO, PAHO/WHO, and the National Cancer Institute (INCA) to promote consumption of these foods throughout the year with regional, national and international events, as well as joint publications. The partnership is a key piece for the promotion of adequate, healthy, and diverse diets, which has an important role in the prevention of chronic non-communicable diseases and all forms of malnutrition in the countries that are taking part in the project.

UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT AND SCHOOL FEEDING COALITION

The WFP Centre of Excellence provided support in all phases of Brazil's participation in two important events on school feeding: the United Nations Food Systems Summit and the launch of the Global School Feeding Coalition. The Coalition was officially launched during the Summit and had the participation of the Brazilian government, represented by the General Coordinator of the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), Karine Santos.

In a video produced by the Centre of Excellence, she detailed how Brazil incorporates a nutritional approach to the school feeding programme. The Centre of Excellence also supported the production of a testimony from a PNAE-appointed nutritionist, who addressed specific issues of programme implementation and the benefits of this type of policy for students, families, and the community in general.



Photo: WFP

The event agenda focused on the notion that, when well executed, school feeding programmes begin with sustainable and local agriculture, contributing to better nutrition for students and leading to better health and education outcomes. Among the participants were the president of France Emmanuel Macron, the president of

the Democratic Republic of Congo and President of the African Union Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, the Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade of Finland Ville Skinnari, and the WFP Executive Director David Beasley.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE PROJECTS IN THE BRAZILIAN DIALOGUE AT THE FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

In July, the Centre of Excellence participated in the last Brazilian National Dialogue video conference, an event in preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit, which took place in September. The fourth video conference had as its theme “Sustainable Food Systems: Brazilian Proposals” and discussed the characteristics of national systems. The proposals put forward by the government at this event were taken to the Summit.

On the occasion, the Fundação Amazônia Sustentável (FAS), a partner NGO, mentioned the joint activities carried out with the Centre of Excellence and emphasized that effective governance for food resilience is only possible when focused on access to regional and healthy food in schools, local food production, local markets, and fair production chains that support small producers. This strategy is aligned with the Beyond Cotton Project guidelines, which aims to support smallholder cotton producers and public institutions in African countries to link cotton by-products and its intercropped crops such as corn, sorghum, and beans to safe markets, including school feeding programmes.

Other highlights include the theme of responsible production and consumption, food and nutritional security, the population’s food standards and the appreciation of the Brazilian Dietary Guide recommendations for a healthy and balanced diet. Thus, the contributions of the Brazilian experience in the development of food systems are also aligned with the scope of the Nurture the Future project and were compiled and brought to the international event in September.

SIDE EVENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS-47)

The Centre of Excellence participated in a side event during the 47th edition of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in February 2021. The Centre also supported the participation of the Brazilian Cooperation



Photo: WFP/ Fredrik Lenneryd

Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE). The panel's theme was "How COVID-19 affected school feeding programmes and how to strengthen them post-COVID, including through home-grown school meals" and discussed observations and lessons learned from school feeding operations during the pandemic and why they continue to be essential to the education, health and nutrition of children and communities.

The event also addressed the importance of returning to pre-pandemic levels of school feeding, the relevance of home-grown models and the importance of programmes being operated by local governments. With a virtual presence of over 220 participants from various countries, the Brazilian government's experience was highlighted with its effort to adapt the school feeding legislation to ensure that the funds destined for the programme continue to be used in the purchase and distribution of food to students, even during the closure of schools.

WORLD COTTON DAY

To mark World Cotton Day, celebrated on October 7th, the Centre of Excellence participated in an event organized by FAO, the Brazilian Cotton Institute (IBA), and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) with a presentation on the implementation methodology of the Beyond Cotton Project. The event aimed to give visibility to the people and institutions that participate in cotton production, processing, and trade, placing the product in a strategic position for economic and social development of rural territories in Latin America and Africa in a post COVID-19 context.

As part of the actions celebrating the date, Beyond Cotton Project partners in Brazil and other countries also participated in a series of webinars promoted by FAO in Latin America to discuss how to install capacities to implement models of sustainable agri-food systems with cotton planting.

FOOD FORTIFICATION AND REDUCTION OF MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCY IN AFRICA

The Centre of Excellence supported the Brazilian Government's participation in a high-level consultation on fortification in Africa. The international event took place in September and had support from the African Union and the West African Health Organization (WAHO). Organized by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the WFP, through the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM), the consultation was aligned with the African Union's 2063 Agenda, the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Better Livelihoods, the Africa 2015-2025 Regional Nutrition Strategy, the United Nations 2030 Agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 2, and other key continental strategies and priorities.

The event brought together representatives of regional and subregional governments, organizations, the African Parliamentarians Network, partners, control and regulatory agencies, the private sector, academia, and civil society organizations. It sought to propose practical interventions to follow and support the efforts of African countries to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms.



Photo: WFP

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK

In early 2021, the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil and the food systems change laboratory of the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Skylab Foodlab) signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at uniting WFP's long-term experience in assisting countries with food security programmes and DTU's expertise in transforming research into technical solutions to real problems. The partnership is focused on jointly producing knowledge and innovation, which should create relevant impacts and tools for school feeding, food security, food systems, nutrition, supply chains, and rural development, focusing on vulnerable populations. The partnership combines research and WFP's hands-on experience on the ground to provide remote support to WFP Country Offices and governments in the global South. The products developed will also boost the WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil's Virtual Exchanges platform.

As a first activity, the Centre of Excellence and the DTU organized an innovation challenge for the University's students, who answered the following question: "How can we develop and implement preservation and processing techniques in small-scale agriculture to ensure a stable supply of food for national school feeding programmes?".

As in real-world scenarios, the DTU students had to consider limited access to technology, water supply, and energy. In April 2021, results were presented in a webinar focused on innovative cassava preservation and processing techniques in West Africa. The WFP office in the Republic of the Congo and the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM) supported students in preparing for the webinar by sharing their knowledge in a Q&A Session.



Photos: Ação da Cidadania

PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENTS, NGOS, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Despite the restrictions to in-person activities, the WFP Centre of Excellence was able to excel in the number and scope of its partnerships. All in all, 15 partnership agreements were signed or renewed in order to: support food donation campaigns for families affected by COVID-19 and climate-related disasters in the Brazilian territory; conduct awareness-raising campaigns and mobilization in Brazil on sustainable production, food security, and the promotion of food and nutrition security; share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned on the design, implementation, methods, innovations, and commitment of civil society, multilateral funds, and corporations in the national strategies for food security and nutrition; organize joint workshops, seminars and conferences; promote

and support food and nutrition security projects and programmes; and carry out joint campaigns and other fundraising efforts.

Within the list of partners, who are essential for the success of WFP activities, agreements have been signed with state and municipal governments, private sector companies, non-governmental organizations, academic entities, international organizations, among other actors. The Centre of Excellence supported food distribution campaigns to the most vulnerable populations, reaching all 26 states and the Federal District. Over one million Brazilians benefited from food donations (baskets and vouchers) in the five regions of the country. Donations were distributed by local partner institutions.



1.2 Advocacy Services

The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger also has a mission to promote and support advocacy activities, including identifying opportunities for South-South Cooperation and conducting study visits and knowledge exchange. In 2021, the remote support methodology was further strengthened and the “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil” received its first visiting country, Lesotho. In addition, the Centre of Excellence teams participated in several events and dialogues on school feeding and nutrition.

VIRTUAL STUDY VISIT: BRAZIL

Over the past ten years, the Centre of Excellence, with support from the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE), has served as a hub for policy dialogue and knowledge exchange on school feeding, smallholder agriculture, and nutrition. In 2021, one year into the pandemic, the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 continued to threaten global development gains achieved in recent decades, putting many of the advances made possible by South-South Triangular Cooperation at risk. It was in this context that the Centre of Excellence, FNDE, and ABC jointly launched the “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil”.

The Study Visit seeks to use digital information and reduce costs, aiming to support new ways to overcome the physical limitations caused by the pandemic, from a less unstable and burdensome environment for post-crisis planning. In order to present the fundamental pillars of the Brazilian experience in school feeding in the context of South-South Cooperation, the visit supports countries that wish to continue their investment in development, even in a situation of global crisis.

Although it does not intend to replace the traditional on-site visit, the “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil” covers the most relevant information points discussed in a face-to-face visit to Brazil and supports the WFP Centre of Excellence’s work in the global dissemination of the main elements of successful Brazilian public policies in this field, especially the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE).

The “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil” consists in a series of videos in English (with subtitles available in Portuguese and Spanish) that simulate an immersion into the Brazilian National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), which makes it a central tool of the WFP Centre of Excellence’s Remote Support methodology. At the same time, the initiative will seek to provide another flexible and economic modality of technical support to countries that request it. The first country to pioneer the methodology was Lesotho, in September.

BRAZIL AND PERU: SMALLHOLDER FARMING AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

In April, a webinar brought together more than 100 people to share knowledge, good practices, and lessons learned in the development of school feeding programmes in Brazil and Peru. Experts from the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, the National Fund for Education Development, and the Smallholder Agriculture and Cooperatives Secretariat, within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, presented Brazil's successful model for purchases of local agricultural inputs for school feeding.

The activity was organized by the WFP Country Office in Peru, with support from the WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil and the WFP Regional Bureau in Panama. The event marked the final phase of a series of virtual exchanges within the project "Promoting the Participation of Smallholder and Medium-Sized Farms in Public Purchases

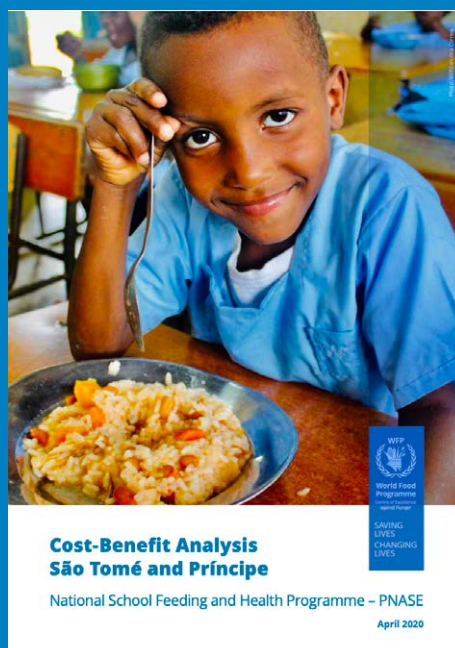
to Improve the Nutrition of Schoolchildren in Peru". Peruvian leaders of the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation and the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion detailed some perceptions about the smallholder farming system in the country, the new legal framework, and the barriers to be faced during the promotion of local production in public purchases.

Peru also presented its National School Feeding Programme, named Qali Warma, and their two experiences supported by WFP and FAO on this theme, strongly influenced by the Brazilian model. The Deputy Minister of Social Protection of Peru stated that the Brazilian case directly inspired the development of the country's School Feeding Programme, focused on the human right to adequate food, the multicultural aspect, and the strong articulation with local communities. She pointed out that the model of the Food Monitoring Committees was directly inspired by the Brazilian model.

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS IN SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

In June, the Centre of Excellence participated virtually in an event in São Tomé and Príncipe to officially launch the cost-benefit analysis (CBA) report of the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE), attended by representatives of the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, Agriculture and Finance, UN agencies, development partners, civil society, and remote participation of the Centre of Excellence team.

The cost-benefit study of PNASE, focused mainly on analysis of the programme's costs and potential benefits, was developed by the WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil in collaboration with the WFP Country Office in São Tomé and Príncipe, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the PNASE Coordination.



Cost-Benefit Analysis São Tomé and Príncipe

National School Feeding and Health Programme – PNASE

April 2020



PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS DAY FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION CELEBRATION

In September, the Centre of Excellence participated in the virtual event in celebration of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2021. The event was organized by the Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC-Colombia) in partnership with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The session's purpose was to highlight the successful South-South Cooperation projects that directly contributed to the social and economic recovery in the Decade of Action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Participants included representatives of national and multilateral cooperation agencies from the global south, national and territorial agencies responsible for South-South Cooperation, trade associations from each region,

and members of academic and research institutes from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The Centre of Excellence participated in a panel on best practices that contributed to SDG advances through South-South Cooperation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation highlighted the methodology and lessons learned from the digital transformation of the services the Centre of Excellence provides, especially Virtual Exchanges, a tool developed to provide remote technical assistance to countries even in times of travel restrictions and paralyzed resources.

BRAZIL AND INDONESIA: VIRTUAL EXCHANGE ON SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The governments of Brazil and Indonesia participated in the final session of a series of Virtual Exchanges organized by the WFP Country Office in Indonesia and the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil on health and nutrition in schools. The goal of this series was to allow the two countries to share knowledge and experience in these areas to support efforts to reposition school health and nutrition programmes in a post-COVID-19 scenario. The event brought together representatives of the two governments as well as experts from the WFP office and the Centre of Excellence Brazil.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia already faced the multiple burden of malnutrition and other problems among children between 5 and 12 years of age and adolescents. The WFP-led “Fill the Nutrient Gap” study revealed that 13% of the population cannot afford a diet

that meets their nutritional needs. In some provinces, this index is between 40% and 54%. Other studies have also shown that families struggled to meet basic needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a major impact on food security. In addition, the closure of schools affected more than 60 million students.

To discuss these topics, representatives from the Ministries of Development Planning, Health, and Education of Indonesia made presentations on Policy Guidelines for Improving the Nutrition of Schoolchildren; School Health Initiatives as platforms for intervention in health and nutrition programmes; and Reopening Schools and In-person Learning (Policy, Strategy, Implementation, and Challenges). The National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), which reaches over 40 million students across Brazil, was also featured at the event.

MASTERCLASS ON HUNGER AND FOOD WASTE

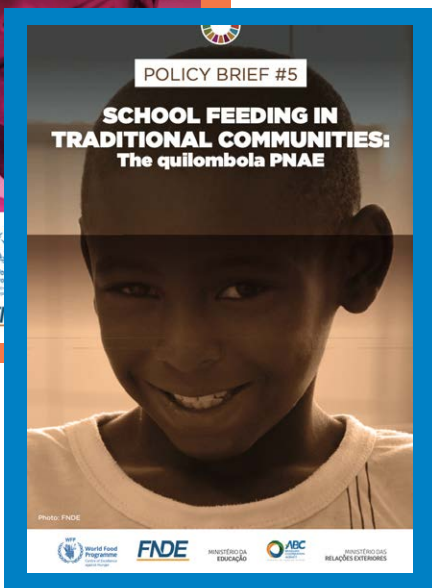
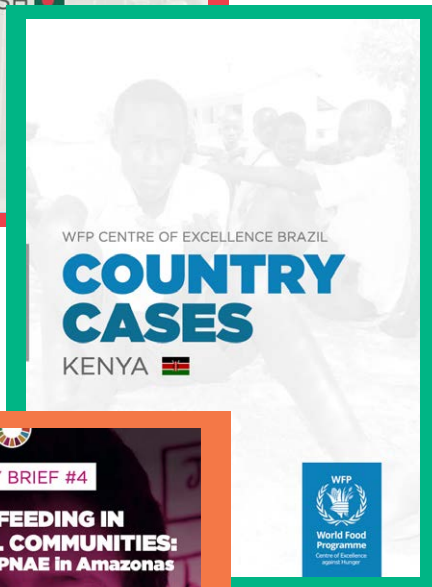
In October, the Centre of Excellence participated in an masterclass as part of the “Sustainable School Feeding: Practices and Reflections on Food Losses and Waste” course, organized by the Federal University of Bahia and the School Feeding Coordination of the Municipal Department of Education of São Paulo. It was aimed at teachers, managers, technical education assistants, and nutritionists. The Centre of Excellence presented an overview of the food and nutrition security situation in the world, as well as the main challenges discussed at the last UN Food Systems Summit and the role of school feeding in addressing the problem.

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME IN ROMANIA

In November, the Centre of Excellence spoke at a school feeding conference organized by the Romanian parliament, which is discussing a new law aimed at expanding the National School Feeding Programme to reach 70% of schools by 2024. The event brought together WFP experts, ambassadors from Finland and India, as well as representatives from the World Bank.

1.3 Knowledge Management Services

In the area of knowledge management, the Centre of Excellence has been collecting data and building evidence (cases); working on documentation and dissemination of good practices; and taking part in monitoring and evaluation of programmes. In 2021, the Programme team and the Nurture the Future Project produced new publications on school feeding and the prevention and care of childhood obesity. The Centre of Excellence also supported data collection for global publications and compiled national good practices in the area of fruits and vegetables.



COUNTRY EXPERIENCES SERIES: KENYA AND BANGLADESH

The publications detail the journey of the two countries in the development of their respective national school feeding programmes and the role of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil in this process. Between 2011 and 2017, Kenya received direct support from the WFP Centre of Excellence to strengthen its school feeding programme and develop the National School Meals and Nutrition Strategy.

In Bangladesh, food supply for schools began in 2001, when the World Food Programme partnered with the government to launch a school feeding programme in the most vulnerable areas of the country. In 2012, a delegation from Bangladesh made a high-level study visit to learn about the Brazilian experience with school feeding and its solid institutional framework for food and nutrition security. From then on, the Centre of Excellence supported the country through several technical visits until the approval of the National School Feeding Policy in 2019.

The two publications were developed in partnership with WFP country offices, local governments and the Brazilian government through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE).

SCHOOL FEEDING IN TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES: THE QUILOMBOLA AND INDIGENOUS PNAE

Brazil has one of the largest, most well-established school feeding programmes in the world, serving more than 40 million students daily in all regions of the country. Implementing this programme in a country of continental dimensions and rich ethnic and cultural variety requires constant innovation and attention to the needs of each community. The documents published in 2021 present the challenges and solutions the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) found to meet the needs and context of traditional quilombola and indigenous communities.

SOFI 2021

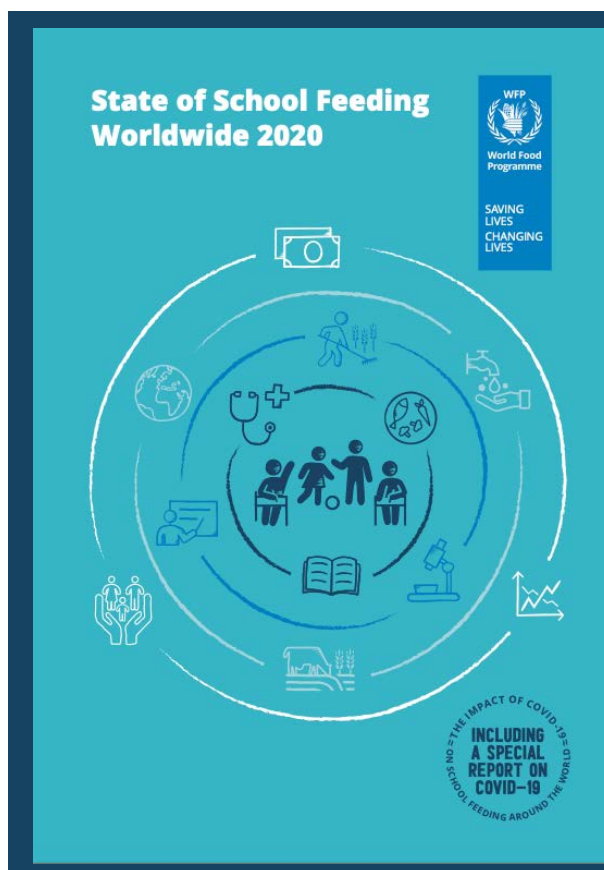
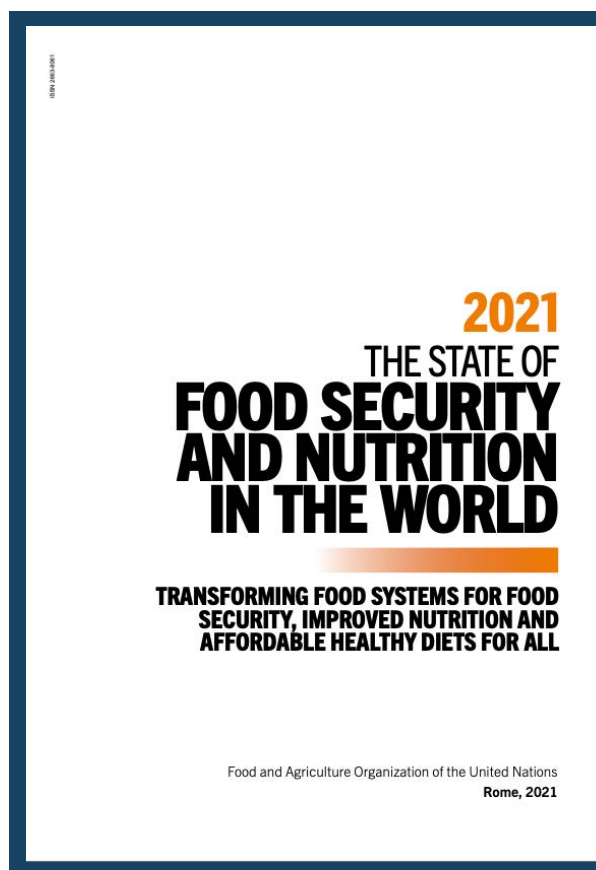
In March 2021, the Centre of Excellence received a call to contribute to the 2021 edition of the document “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World” (SOFI) focusing on the experience of actors and countries that could share best practices and lessons learned on what would be necessary – in a practical and innovative way – to transform food systems and improve access to nutritious food and affordable healthy diets.

The document is a global reference and part of the actions of the Committee on World Food Security. The Centre of Excellence then sent the innovations and responses to COVID-19 that the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) adopted, in addition to the cooperation actions of the partnership between the Centre of Excellence and Brazil for inclusion in SOFI 2021. Positive experiences in promoting urban gardens and regulating food marketing for children were also cited.

STATE OF SCHOOL FEEDING WORLDWIDE

The WFP released the world’s first State of School Feeding Worldwide report in 2013. In February 2021, an updated edition of the State of School Feeding was launched in a joint virtual ceremony with the celebration of the African Day of School Feeding. Considering that the first version of the document had no translation into Portuguese, the Brazilian government expressed interest in supporting the translation to make the document more accessible to Portuguese-speaking countries. The publication includes information on school feeding from many countries, which helps present school feeding as an important instrument of social protection, especially in such a complex context imposed by the pandemic and international economic and social crises. The translation was carried out by the Centre of Excellence.

In addition, the report presents the Brazilian National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) as a case study and details its coverage and operational specificities. The publication also mentions innovations developed in Brazil, such as the “e-PNAE” app, which allows parents, students, teachers, nutritionists, school board members, and the entire community to monitor and evaluate school meals offered all over the country.



CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Obesity among children and adolescents is the result of a complex series of genetic, individual, behavioural, and environmental factors that act in multiple contexts. In 2021, as part of the Nurture the Future activities, the Centre of Excellence published two documents on the topic. The first – “Childhood obesity: strategies for prevention and care at the local level” – presents information to contribute to the creation of strategies by municipal and state public managers for the prevention and care of childhood obesity. The document consists of six objective questions and answers to facilitate understanding on a subject so sensitive that it can change the reality of a municipality.

The second publication, called “Childhood Obesity: Prevention and Care in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru”, brings experiences of three countries in this theme. The two publications are part of the Nurture the Future project, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency.



REGIONAL DIALOGUES ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The document presents a summary of the debates held during the Regional Dialogues on Fruits and Vegetables in a series of five meetings, one for each macro-region of Brazil, which aimed to share innovative experiences that strengthen the production, supply, and consumption of fruits and vegetables. The dialogues, organized by the Ministry of Health and the National Cancer Institute, in partnership with PAHO/WHO, FAO, and the Centre of Excellence, presented the particularities of each region in relation to the challenges and opportunities for the design and implementation of policies and actions that promote health and an adequate diet, and strengthen healthy, fair, and sustainable food systems.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: FOOD, NUTRITION AND PREVENTION OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY

In 2021, the Nurture the Future project team also finalized a study comparing the main policies, programmes and food and nutrition actions developed in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru aimed at coping with the multiple burden of malnutrition. The document compiles good practices from each country and points out reflections for improvement through sectoral actions on the health, planning, design and evaluation of policies, programmes, and other activities. The comparison is expected to contribute to identifying priorities, challenges, and potential international cooperation partnerships that seek the full development of each country, as well as the health, nutrition, and well-being of its populations.

Another analysis sought to highlight the actions of prevention and attention to childhood obesity in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru as a first step in the direction of opening dialogues, spaces for cooperation and exchange of experiences. The goal is to contribute to the debate in this field, which is at a time of generating ideas based on scientific evidence with the potential to positively affect the lives of millions of Brazilian, Colombian, and Peruvian children and youth. The documents will be available in the Centre of Excellence's online library in 2022.

RESULTS

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Results of the support to countries and South-South Cooperation efforts throughout the year include the “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil”, the start of field work in Mozambique and other activities within the Beyond Cotton Project, as well as the strengthening of cooperation networks within the framework of the Nurture the Future project.

BENIN

The Beyond Cotton project started in Benin with the approval of the country project plan, which enabled the start of the data collecting phase. The main goal is to support the local government in addressing the challenges of food and nutrition security, focusing on school meals, nutrition assistance, and training of smallholder cotton farmers.

BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, AND PERU

Throughout the year, the Nurture the Future team focused its efforts on several regional and national events that addressed concrete issues within the project’s core themes, such as child nutrition, obesity and the production, sale and consumption of fruits and vegetables. In the first semester, technical teams from the three countries participated in a seminar to share strategies to prevent and control childhood obesity. The virtual event was organized by the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC).

In October, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru participated in another online seminar to discuss the agenda of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, which is part of the cooperation between countries to build a joint work to implement policies capable of reversing the multiple burden of malnutrition, especially childhood obesity. The event aimed to share experiences developed by the health sector at the national level to contribute to increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables in Brazil, Peru, and Colombia.

In addition, the Nurture the Future technical team supported the organization of a series of five Regional Dialogues to stimulate consumption of these foods and to broaden the debate on production, supply, and consumption. The initiative also had support from the Ministry of Health and the National Cancer Institute (INCA), in partnership with PAHO/WHO and FAO. After the series of regional meetings, the partners promoted a National Dialogue on the topic. During the event, the Centre of Excellence launched the report “Regional Dialogues on Fruits and Vegetables”.

Other events the Centre of Excellence participated in include a seminar on the role of municipalities in childhood obesity prevention and care, organized by the Centre of Excellence, the Obesity Care Group (GAO), and the State University of West Paraná (Unioeste); the 19th Latin-American Congress on Nutrition (SLAN 2021); and the 18th Congress of the Latin-American Confederation of Nutritionists and Dietitians (Confelanyd).

The knowledge exchange promoted by these events had the goal of supporting processes to strengthen national public institutions and the nutrition and health sectors, considered fundamental for the management of food and nutrition policies in partner countries. Therefore, the Nurture the Future project also used these national and international meetings, with participation of thousands of managers, nutritionists, and health experts from several countries to disseminate the products developed by this South-South Cooperation initiative.

LESOTHO

Last year also marked the launch of the “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil” and Lesotho was the first country to participate. The Virtual Visit is a joint initiative with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE). It presents the pillars of the Brazilian experience in food and nutrition security to a global audience. Its methodology consists of a series of videos that simulate an immersion into the Brazilian National School Feeding Programme, the PNAE. They are complemented by online workshops, where participants can ask questions, exchange knowledge, and discuss possible joint next steps.

MOZAMBIQUE

The Beyond Cotton Project recorded important advances in Mozambique with the approval of the country’s annual operational plan, which contains the strategies for implementing activities, remotely or face-to-face, to develop the products defined in the country project. In early August, the Beyond Cotton Project team in Mozambique went to the field to begin the stage of presenting the project to local government partners. The activities took place in the provinces of Tete (Magoe, Cahora Bassa and Moatize districts) and Manica (Guro and Barue districts) and were supported by the Mozambique Cotton and Oilseeds Institute (IAOM) and WFP Country Office.

TANZANIA

After the validation workshop for the diagnostic document, held in the country in 2019, a technical committee led by the WFP Country Office in Tanzania was organized with the participation of representatives of institutions linked to the Beyond Cotton Project. The committee worked throughout 2021 to submit a proposal for a country project document, based on the priority areas agreed upon in 2019, for validation by Brazilian counterparts. Several meetings were held with the Federal University of Campina Grande (UFCG) and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency to discuss the next steps. The project implementation should begin in 2022.



Photo: WFP/Antoine Valfas

INTERNAL
WORK

3



In 2021, the Centre of Excellence further strengthened ties with strategic partners, such as the Brazilian government, and with key WFP sectors to expand the scope of actions related to nutrition, school feeding and smallholder agriculture. The operational team also supported the Brazilian government in sending humanitarian donations to over 10 countries throughout the year. In addition, the Centre of Excellence recorded important advances in visibility, executing innovative activities and strengthening existing communication channels.

3.1 Strategic planning

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT

The partnership between the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger and the Brazilian Ministry of Health gained momentum in the last half of 2020. In 2021, the Nurture the Future Project held several workshops with cooperating countries to discuss current national actions and best practices to stimulate a broader political dialogue on food and nutrition security, especially aimed at reducing overweight and obesity. Materials focused on guiding public managers on the practices of how to prevent and control childhood obesity were produced and launched by this initiative.

The collaboration between the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Centre of Excellence produced innovative solutions in nutrition and the online and knowledge-sharing infrastructure that the Nurture the Future project promotes. These actions played an important role during the COVID-19 pandemic for the Centre of Excellence to consolidate itself as a reference in nutrition in the region. In addition, the Centre of Excellence served as a knowledge exchange platform and responded to South-South learning requests from the Brazilian government and countries committed to expanding their nutrition-related programmes.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WFP SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION UNIT

Throughout 2021, the Centre of Excellence acted as one of the leaders of the WFP South-South Cooperation task force, an initiative launched in 2020 at the global meeting on the topic. The meeting brought together leaders from WFP offices around the world to discuss practical ways to strengthen the organization's South-South and Triangular Cooperation activities through the assurance of guidelines, mechanisms, and funds. Therefore, the task force aims to continue the discussions initiated at the global meeting and develop the necessary tools to achieve the priorities set in 2020. The Centre of Excellence led one of the three task force groups, whose objective was to define standards and principles for WFP-mediated South-South Cooperation and contribute to better and more efficient delivery of initiatives. In July 2021, the task force work culminated in the presentation of a series of products and tools that will serve as a basis to better structure WFP activities in this area.

With the closure of the task force's activities, WFP held a new Global South-South Cooperation meeting in November 2021. The event allowed WFP headquarters, regional offices and Centres of Excellence to monitor the progress of work in South-South cooperation since the 1st meeting, held in 2020. On the occasion, Daniel Balaban, Director of the Centre of Excellence, participated in a new round of discussions among WFP managers. The technical programme team integrated a virtual workshop, in which priorities and guidelines were listed for the WFP policy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation from 2022 onwards.

HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

The WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil, in close partnership with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), assisted more than 10 countries in their plans to fight COVID-19.

The humanitarian cooperation activities, which received resources from the Brazilian government and contributions from WFP offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America, were destined, for the most part, to the purchase of food and personal protective equipment, hospital supplies and medicine. Whenever possible, the products were purchased from local suppliers and in coordination with the Brazilian embassies, who also collaborated with delivering the products in the countries – some of which were affected by natural disasters that worsened the conditions to fight the pandemic. In a few cases, Brazilian aid was carried out through collaboration between WFP and other United Nations agencies such as FAO and UNRWA.

Over the past few years, coping with the consequences of COVID-19 has been the priority field of action in the Brazilian international humanitarian cooperation, which motivated the continuity of cooperation activities in 2022.

3.2 Communications

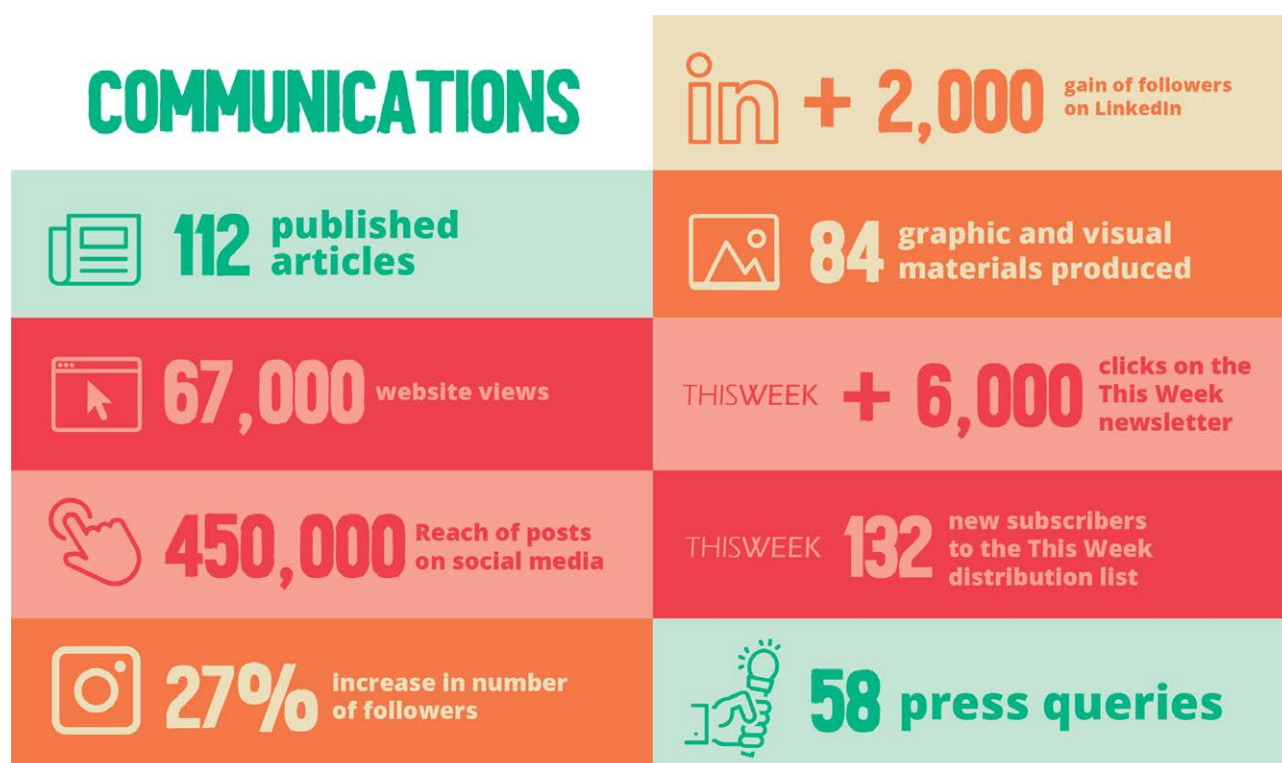
After the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the WFP in late 2020, the WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil's digital platforms gained greater visibility. As a result of strategies adopted to maintain high levels of exposure, the number of visits to the site and social media channels remained high. The number of visits to the Centre's page, for example, reached a total 67,000

in 2021 – in line with what as recorded in 2020, which had great momentum after the Nobel.

The reach of our four social media profiles (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook) totalled 450,000. Instagram recorded a 27% increase in the number of followers, while LinkedIn gained more than 2,000 new followers throughout the year. It is worth highlighting the unprecedented engagement work of WFP Goodwill Ambassador (Kaká) and national celebrity (Rita Lobo) in the global campaign Stop the Waste. The unit worked alongside the Regional Office in Panama and the headquarters' marketing team in scripting, producing, and editing videos for the website and social media. In addition to organic reach, the campaign also featured sponsored posts.

Another highlight of 2021 was the 10-year anniversary of the foundation of the WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil. The campaign included the production of a commemorative bilingual book and a simplified and interactive version on Sway (with over 500 total accesses) as well as content for the website, social media, and a global event. Another robust work completed in 2021 was the coordination of the creation of eight videos for the "Virtual Study Visit: Brazil".

On the UN Brazil website, content about WFP was also highlighted, totalling 134 publications with an average of 150 views per post. On UN Brazil's social networks, WFP content appeared 280 times, with an average total of views reaching 6,000 per post.





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