



# 2021 – 2022 Overview of WFP's Initiatives on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

# FOREWORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The global community is at a critical moment in its pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. The world is facing a hunger crisis on an unprecedented scale, where food and energy prices have never been higher, and with the world's most vulnerable people, countries and economies facing devastating impacts. All this comes at a time when countries from the Global South were already struggling with the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and inadequate resources amidst persistent and growing inequalities.

Across the countries where WFP operates, 345 million people are estimated to be facing acute food security in 2022. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is one of the key avenues to support progress towards zero hunger and the achievement of the ambitious goals set in the 2030 Agenda. By sharing innovative solutions and technologies and building new partnerships with support from WFP, countries from the Global South can tap into SSTC to address common challenges, strengthen national systems and programmes, and ultimately work towards achieving food security and nutrition for all.

The 2021–2022 Overview of WFP's initiatives on South-South Cooperation presents an outline of WFP's work as a broker and facilitator of knowledge exchanges and innovation among countries in the Global South. Since 2015, WFP has increasingly stepped up its commitment to brokering SSTC and is now considered one among the United Nations entities that have made the most progress towards mainstreaming SSTC in 2021, reaching 1.11 million people and mobilizing \$2.7 million for SSTC field projects.

This is also an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the trust that governments place in WFP as a broker of choice of SSTC for zero hunger, as well as the crucial support of our partners, and the relentless work of the WFP Centres of Excellence, regional bureaux, and country offices.

Going forward, WFP will further reiterate its commitment to SSTC through the revision of its internal SSTC Policy, planned to be presented to the Executive Board in June 2023. This strategic document will provide further clarity on WFP's new strategic direction in SSTC in view of the rapidly changing environment and the need to respond to growing demands from host governments. It will also clarify how SSTC will contribute to the implementation of [WFP's new Strategic Plan \(2022-2025\)](#), the 2nd generation of Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) and further align WFP's SSTC approach to the [UN System-wide Strategy for SSTC](#). We must use what we have learnt to accelerate progress towards zero hunger, deliver on the 2030 Agenda and keep our promises to current and future generations.



David Kaatrud, Director  
Programme- Humanitarian and Development

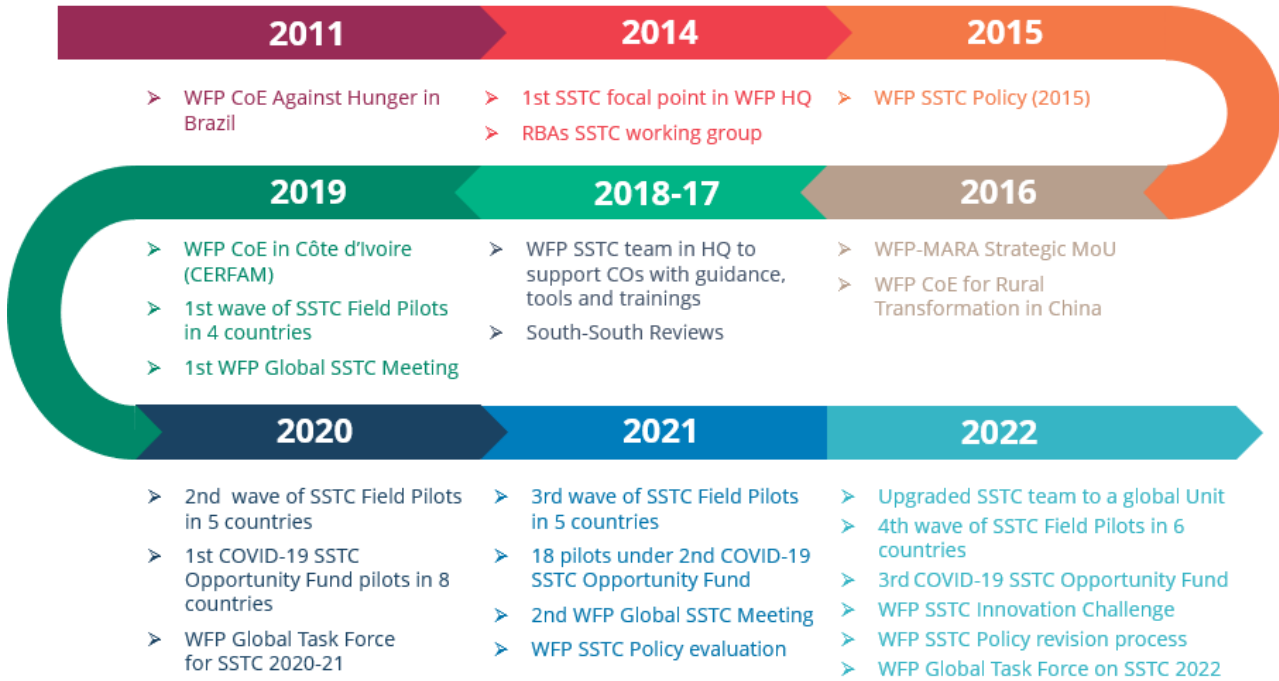
# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>ACR</b>	Annual Country Report
<b>CERFAM</b>	Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition
<b>CO</b>	Country Office
<b>CoE</b>	Centre of Excellence
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona Virus Disease 19
<b>CSP</b>	Country Strategic Plan
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>EPR</b>	Emergency Preparedness and Response
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GSSD</b>	Global South-South Development Expo
<b>HQ</b>	Headquarters
<b>IBSA</b>	India, Brazil, South Africa Facility
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>MARA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China
<b>PHL</b>	Post Harvest Loss
<b>RB</b>	Regional Bureau
<b>RBB</b>	WFP Regional Bureau Asia and the Pacific
<b>RBC</b>	WFP Regional Bureau Northern Africa and the Middle East
<b>RBD</b>	WFP Regional Bureau West Africa
<b>RBJ</b>	WFP Regional Bureau Southern Africa
<b>RBN</b>	WFP Regional Bureau East and Central Africa
<b>RBP</b>	WFP Regional Bureau Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>RBA</b>	Rome-Based Agencies
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SSC</b>	South-South Cooperation
<b>SSTC</b>	South-South and Triangular Cooperation

# CONTENTS

<b>SSTC in WFP at a glance</b> .....	<b>5</b>
OVERVIEW ON SSTC, ITS ROLE AND HISTORY IN WFP .....	6
WFP'S STRATEGIC PROCESSES IN SSTC.....	9
<b>OVERVIEW OF THE WFP GLOBAL SSTC INITIATIVE WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS OF CHINA</b> .....	<b>10</b>
SSTC FIELD PILOTS.....	10
<b>THE COVID-19 OPPORTUNITY FUND PILOTS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
FIRST WAVE COVID-19 PILOTS.....	11
SECOND WAVE COVID-19 PILOTS.....	12
ADDITIONAL COVID-19 PILOTS.....	12
<b>WFP's Regional Initiatives in SSTC</b>	
<b>SOUTHERN AFRICA</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>WESTERN AFRICA</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>EASTERN AFRICA</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE-EAST</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>WFP's Centres of Excellence</b>	
<b>WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER IN BRAZIL.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN CHINA.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>WFP REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>The way forward.....</b>	<b>26</b>

# TIMELINE



# NUMBERS 2021/22



**91% COUNTRY OFFICES**  
FEATURED SSTC IN THEIR  
COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN



**40+ SSTC PROJECTS**  
IN THE FIELD



**51% COUNTRY OFFICES**  
RECORDED SSTC IN THEIR  
ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT



**11K PEOPLE**  
DIRECTLY REACHED



**1.1 MILLION PEOPLE**  
REACHED INDIRECTLY



**48% FEMALE**  
PARTICIPANTS  
IN SSTC FIELD PROJECTS

# GLOBAL INITIATIVES



# OVERVIEW ON SSTC, ITS ROLE AND HISTORY IN WFP

## WHAT IS SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION?

South-South Cooperation (SSC) refers to a broad framework of collaboration between developing countries. This usually involves a learning process or transfer of knowledge, experience, training, technology, financial and monetary cooperation or in-kind contributions between two or more countries of the Global South.

When donor countries and/or multilateral organizations help facilitate South-South exchanges, this form of cooperation is called Triangular Cooperation (herein SSTC). WFP is recognized as a triangular partner as soon as it engages in supporting South-South initiatives.

WFP facilitates effective, results-oriented, and demand-driven SSTC to support country-led efforts towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and SDG 17 with a focus on the most vulnerable and food insecure populations.

In doing so, WFP aims to contribute to strengthening host governments' national abilities and independence to drive their own development process and leverages multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience.

## WHY DOES WFP FACILITATE SSTC?

WFP faces the challenge of a world that is not moving towards but away from zero hunger.

New wars and unresolved conflicts, the global climate crisis and recurrent economic shocks – including the economic turmoil triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic – are driving this downward spiral.

Working in partnerships is the only way to augment revert this trend of increasing food insecurity and malnutrition.

SSTC offers an opportunity for WFP to bring more partners onboard and unlock the knowledge and solutions available in the Global South to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition.

Strengthening national capacity and systems presents opportunities for scale, impact and sustainability, helping to reach the increasing number of people who are food insecure and unable to afford healthy diets.

SSTC is a key pillar in WFP's efforts to strengthen national systems and programmes in countries from the Global South, as well as to mobilize new resources and local innovations to achieve Agenda 2030.

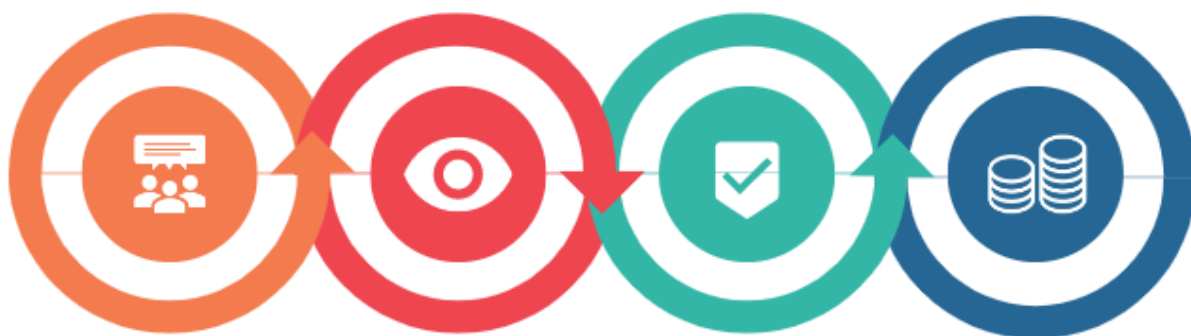
## HOW DOES WFP SUPPORT SSTC?

Governments and national stakeholders are at the forefront of SSTC. Upon demand, WFP supports governments to tap into SSTC to achieve their own national priorities in food security and nutrition. Some of the areas in which WFP supported governments by brokering SSTC include smallholder farmers support, school feeding, emergency preparedness and response, nutrition, etc.

To do so, WFP leverages SSTC across its work at the policy, programme and operational levels, ensuring coherence across all three. Governments and national stakeholders engaging in South-South exchanges brokered by WFP tap into the wealth of knowledge and expertise from countries in the Global South benefiting from a wide range of services including:

**Effective knowledge management and support with evidence generation**

**Seed funding support for SSTC projects**



**Technical assistance in thematic areas under WFP's scope**

**Operational support for piloting SSTC projects in the field**

## MAINSTREAMING SSTC IN OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Upon request of host governments, WFP leverages SSTC as a means to strengthen national programmes and systems, as well as individual capacities across programme areas. This engagement at the country level is reflected in Country Strategic Plan (CSP) which outline WFP's portfolio of assistance in a 5-year plan.

It is therefore paramount to include SSTC in CSPs, where appropriate, to reflect WFP's commitment to responding to national demands in this area. In addition, mainstreaming SSTC will increase advocacy with diverse partners, and ensure timely budgeting and reporting for the related activities.

In 2021, 91% of country offices (COs) reflected SSTC as an area for host government engagement, and over half of all COs reported SSTC in the Annual Country Reports (ACRs).

Governments are at the drivers' seat of WFP's efforts to facilitated SSTC. Recognizing that, the SSTC team developed a methodology called 'South-South reviews' that supports COs to start the dialogue with host governments and capture country demand for WFP-facilitated SSTC.



South-South reviews help governments to systematically capture SSTC opportunities and identify short- to mid-term priorities to be included in the CSPs with support from regional bureaux (RBx) and COs.

So far, WFP has conducted 20 South-South Reviews, of which the following in 2021-2022: Indonesia, El Salvador, Burundi, Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria. This can be tailored both for recipient and provider countries.

Furthermore, in response to the continuously rising country demands for WFP-brokered SSTC, WFP stepped up its commitment by scaling up its SSTC workforce capacity and by setting-up a global seed funding facility with support from China to support pilot projects (see page 10).

## THE SOUTH-SOUTH REVIEW IN GHANA

In March 2022, several Ministries of the Government of Ghana including Health, Agriculture, Interior and others, engaged with WFP and local partners to develop a South-South Review document. The main results of this process were: 1) The overview of Ghana's existing engagement and interest in SSTC (e.g., drivers, motivation, existing partners); 2) Entry points for Ghana to engage in SSTC with WFP's support and potential partners in the region and beyond; and 3) 12 most relevant SSTC investment opportunities for Ghana to explore with WFP support. The findings of this week long consultation, and particularly some of the investment opportunities, will be featured across the new CSP as modalities that contribute to achieving the strategic objectives. Opportunities touch upon the entire portfolio of WFP's work in support to the Government of Ghana, ranging from smallholders' access to markets, early warning systems, rice fortification and school feeding to name a few.

### SSTC SUPPORT AVAILABLE AT ONE GLANCE



WFP facilitated SSTC across the full range of its saving lives and changing lives portfolio. Key thematic areas for SSTC engagement where WFP has expertise in SSTC include school-based programmes, social protection, food systems, nutrition, emergency preparedness and response, and supply chain. Through different exchange modalities, WFP supports governments to leverage SSTC to:

1. Drive change at policy-level by incentivizing policymakers to prioritize investments in zero hunger through generating evidence, advocating, and giving exposure to other countries' experiences;
2. Empower experts at the technical level by enhancing their the skills and capacities to design and implement inclusive and gender-transformative food security and nutrition programmes through training, technology transfer, peer learning and joint problem solving; and
3. Scale up innovations at grassroots level by testing what works and what doesn't in the field, facilitating joint problem analysis, peer coaching and farmer-to-farmer exchanges to build resilience and improve nutrition of people and communities affected by the protracted crisis.

## EXAMPLES OF WFP FACILITATED SSTC MODALITIES

### TRAINING OF TRAINERS

To mitigate the limitations of smallholder farmers' access to markets due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Government of Zimbabwe sought WFP's support to tap into Chinese expertise in e-commerce to expand the use of the local "eMkambo" online platform. In 2021, 31 food stakeholders received a training on e-commerce from the China Agricultural University to be able to further train other potential users of eMkambo. 500 smallholder farmers in Mount Darwin district in Zimbabwe were profiled on the e-commerce platform to access it. This successful pilot will be scaled up in 2022 thanks to WFP China CoE's support.



### TECHNICAL EXCHANGE

In 2022, a delegation from the Government of the Gambia visited the Ivory Coast, thanks to the facilitation of CERFAM, to learn about their best practices in school feeding programs. The visit enabled an in depth exchange specifically on the home-grown element of school feeding programmes amongst a wide range of stakeholders including representatives of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, rural farmers cooperatives, the Government of the Gambia and WFP Offices in Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal and China.

### POLICY DIALOGUE

The Government of Ethiopia currently operates a pilot school feeding project in its capital Adis Ababa and is looking for ways to make it as nutrition-sensitive as possible to contribute to improving the country's child malnutrition problem. Given Brazil's expertise in nutritious school meals menus, in May and June 2022, WFP CoE Brazil welcomed the Government of Ethiopia for two virtual and 1 in-person study visits. A total of 124 people participated including, the Ethiopian Government at the national and regional level. The core of the learning experience were the details on policies to link school food purchases to family farming, which in Brazil need to be at least 30% of the total. Following the mission, WFP is now supporting the adaptation of learnings from the mission in the local context in Ethiopia.



## ROME-BASED AGENCIES — WFP, FAO AND IFAD — COLLABORATION

WFP continues the strong collaboration in SSTC with the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) seeking complementarities and synergies at global, regional and country levels. In 2021/2022, WFP consolidated and expanded its engagement with FAO and IFAD, in line with the [Joint Roadmap on SSTC](#) adopted in 2018. Key areas of collaboration in 2021/2022 included the Regular RBA's SSTC Directors Meetings, the field-level pilots in SSTC such as in Ecuador, Peru, Kenya and RoC and the joint RBA celebration of the UN Day for SSTC in September 2021. Through a continuous dialogue, the RBAs are working to set-up a [completely new RBA field collaboration on SSTC in home-grown school feeding](#). This initiative also holds the potential to support the UN Food System Summit outcomes, in particular by contributing to the Global School Meals Coalition, and helping countries confront the challenges posed by the unfolding humanitarian crisis from recent global events. This initiative will be formally launched during the 11th GSSD Expo in Thailand in September 2022.





# WFP'S STRATEGIC PROCESSES IN 2021-2022

Since the approval of the WFP Policy in 2015, SSTC is featured across the most influential corporate strategic documents that determine the organization's line of action.

Notably, SSTC is highlighted in the new [WFP Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#) under *Strategic Outcome 4: National Programmes and systems are strengthened*. It is a means through which WFP can support countries to strengthen their systems and capacities as well as enabling new partnerships and mobilize resources. Furthermore, SSTC is included under the Partnership Section of the Strategic Plan as a key enabler for WFP to achieve its strategic results.

## SSTC POLICY EVALUATION

In 2021, WFP rolled out an independent evaluation of the WFP Policy on SSTC (2015) to assess its relevance, effectiveness, coherence and sustainability as well as its implementation from 2015 to 2020. The summary [evaluation report](#) was presented to and approved by the Executive Board in November 2021.

The evaluation is largely positive with regards to the quality of the SSTC policy. It acknowledged the concrete and tangible results generated at the country level, the extent to which WFP has broadened and systematized its SSTC engagement over the years and how it is currently among the UN entities that have made the most progress towards SSTC mainstreaming.



## GLOBAL TASK FORCE TO CONSOLIDATE WFP'S STRATEGIC APPROACH TO SSTC

To further enhance the corporate strategic engagement in SSTC, WFP launched in 2020 a Global Task Force that brings together country and technical perspectives to help improve and refine the work in this area.

The Task Force serves as an internal WFP coordination mechanism on SSTC, bringing together all key decision-makers from WFP CoEs, RBx, COs and thematic divisions. In 2021, the Task Force produced a set of eight concrete deliverables and strategic decisions around: (1) WFP's value proposition for SSTC; (2) WFP's SSTC delivery models and

## RECOMMENDATIONS



SSTC is recognized as a "bridge" between WFP's work on country capacity strengthening and partnerships that has the potential to contribute to WFP's mandate, which encompasses both the saving lives and changing lives agenda.

At the same time, the evaluation underlines how the process of institutionalizing SSTC is ongoing, and that SSTC is not yet fully mainstreamed across all thematic areas. The report puts forward six recommendations, two at the strategic level and four at the operational level.

The recommendations from the evaluation, as well as work produced by the WFP's Global Task Force on SSTC will inform the revision of the WFP Policy on SSTC that is planned to be presented to the Executive Board in June 2023.

(3) defining an approach to SSTC knowledge brokerage (matching demand and supply of "Southern solutions").

The work of the Task Force continues in 2022, building on the results from 2021, the recommendations of the SSTC Policy evaluation and on the outcomes of 2nd global internal meeting on SSTC held in November 2021. It will focus on: (1) reflecting SSTC into WFP's new CSPs; (2) strengthening the evidence generation and fostering learning on WFP-supported SSTC; and (3) informing the revision of WFP's SSTC Policy.

# OVERVIEW OF THE WFP GLOBAL SSTC INITIATIVE WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS OF CHINA

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of the People's Republic of China and WFP have been partnering since 2019 through a global initiative in SSTC that supports countries with implementing SSTC pilot projects in the areas of value chain development, post-harvest loss (PHL) and disaster risk reduction.

Starting with 4 SSTC pilot projects in 2019, the number escalated to 20 in 2021. This positive trend was driven by an increased demand from host governments, continuous financial support from MARA and the technical assistance provided by WFP China CoE. More details on the collaboration with MARA can be found in this [publication](#).

## THE SSTC FIELD PILOTS

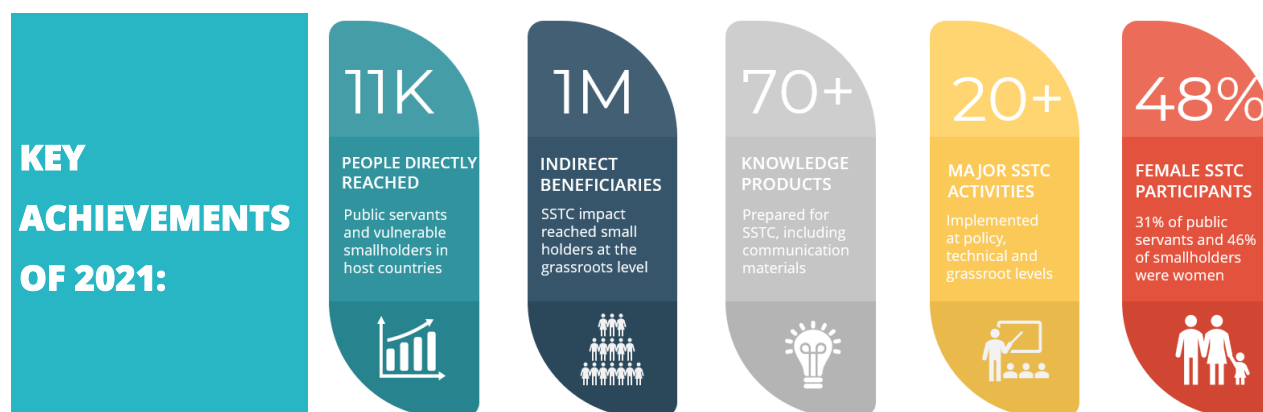
Their SSTC Field Pilots are multi-year projects which promote a comprehensive integration of SSTC in the WFP

programme of work at the country level. Their focus is on strengthening country capacities, resilience-building and national food systems, in line with the priorities of the host governments, the Government of China, WFP China CoE and WFP's CSPs.

These projects aim to change the lives of vulnerable smallholders and their families in the field through a longer-term approach to country capacity strengthening.

The 5 field pilot projects in Ecuador, Kenya, Peru, Republic of Congo and Sri Lanka have reached 9,577 smallholder farmers and school children at the grassroots level in 2021.

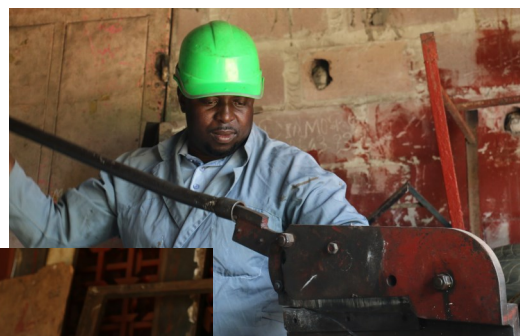
573 officials of 16 national institutions ranging from central to local governments, research institutions and private sector actors, have engaged in the field pilots to date. In 2022, an additional field pilot was kickstarted in Ghana.



SSTC FIELD PILOTS		
COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE
<b>Kenya</b>	Improving food systems in arid and semi-arid lands through Chinese cost-efficient technologies for supply chain management, food processing and postharvest handling	2019 - ongoing
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Strengthening the resilience to climate-related risks of vulnerable smallholder farmers through Chinese technology and knowledge transfer	2019 - ongoing
<b>Republic of Congo</b>	Enhancing smallholder farmers' capacity on cassava processing and connecting them to market through school feeding	2019 - ongoing
<b>Peru</b>	Strengthening host government's capacity to design and implement public policies promoting public food procurement from smallholders	2020 - ongoing
<b>Ecuador</b>	Promoting sustainable food production and marketing systems, by implementing Chinese resilient agricultural practices	2019 - ongoing
<b>Ghana</b>	Providing access to e-commerce platforms to smallholder farmers to increase access to markets	2022 - ongoing

“WITH THIS NEW KNOWLEDGE AND THESE NEW TECHNIQUES, I CAN OPEN UP TO OTHER MARKETS AND MANUFACTURE SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT FOR CUSTOMERS THAT I DID NOT HAVE BEFORE.”

KEVIN, A CONGOLESE WELDER WHO LEARNED TO MAKE CASSAVA AND BANANA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT THROUGH TRAINING FROM BENINESE AND IVORIAN EXPERTS.



# THE COVID-19 SSTC OPPORTUNITY FUND PILOTS

This fund is a corporate facility created in 2020-2021, in response to the rapidly growing SSTC requests from countries beyond the Field Pilots. It is designed to provide quick and flexible smaller scale support to host governments (with WFP’s facilitation) to respond to adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by tapping into SSTC.

Through a combination of internal funds and support from MARA, in 2021 7 COVID-19 pilot projects were initiated and finalized in addition to the Field Pilots.

117 civil servants and public sector staff were helped to enhance their capacities on policies and technical solutions, and 554 beneficiary smallholder farmers were reached to improve their livelihoods.

FIRST WAVE COVID-19 OPPORTUNITY FUND PILOTS		
COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Development of sorghum-based fortified noodles through Chinese technical expertise to increase acceptability of in-kind donations amongst refugee populations in Ethiopia	2020-2021
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Peer regional learning from Colombia, Peru and Mexico to adapt key national social protection programmes to COVID-19 challenges	
<b>Indonesia</b>	Improve the nutrition status of primary school children through enhanced school-based interventions	
<b>Jordan</b>	Technical virtual exchange between Jordan and Indonesia focused on Drought Risk Management	
<b>Namibia</b>	Supporting the Namibian Government to adapt the national Home-Grown School Feeding Programme to the challenges of COVID-19 through technical assistance from Kenya	
<b>Togo</b>	Identify and integrate new food and nutrition security indicators into the national monitoring and evaluation mechanism through facilitation of WFP’s Centre Against Hunger and Malnutrition	
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Increasing smallholder access to markets through the an e-commerce platform during COVID-19 restrictions through the Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre	



## SECOND WAVE COVID-19 OPPORTUNITY FUND PILOTS

COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE
<b>Libya</b>	South-South Cooperation exchange with China on Climate Change during COVID era in Libya	2021–ongoing
<b>Zambia</b>	Enhancing Smallholder Access to Markets through the Digital Maano Virtual Farmers	
<b>Armenia</b>	Strengthen community level capacity for investment in food production for smallholder farmers and enhance food security for those smallholder farmers through increasing their productivity, and profitability	
<b>El Salvador</b>	Feasibility assessment for the development of a national e-commerce platform of vegetable and fruits, with the inclusion of smallholder farmers	
<b>Guinea</b>	Advancing postharvest loss reduction and rice value chain	
<b>Burundi</b>	Support rural digitalization of sustainable agricultural value chains in Burundi	
<b>Madagascar</b>	Inclusive cassava value chain development for community resilience and women empowerment	



Due to the success of the First Wave Pilots, MARA decided to support a second wave of that started in 2021 and currently ongoing.

In June 2022 a third call for proposals for the COVID-19 Opportunity Funds Pilots was released and 34 applications were received from 29 countries. The selected ones will become new members of the WFP Global SSTC Initiative with MARA.

## ADDITIONAL SSTC PILOT PROJECTS

Amid the continuously rising country demands, WFP stepped up its commitment to brokering SSTC by co-financing the second wave of SSTC COVID-19 Opportunity Fund in 2021, allowing 11 additional countries to implement SSTC pilot projects that contribute to the pandemic response.



## ADDITIONAL SSTC COVID-19 PILOTS

COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE
<b>Kenya</b>	Best Practices and Lessons Learned: Leveraging Kenya's Experience in Shock Responsive National Social Protection Delivery Systems	2021–ongoing
<b>Syria</b>	National Wheat Flour Fortification Programme	
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Adaptive social protection and COVID-19: Strengthening a more integrated response through SSTC	
<b>Chad</b>	Strengthening the functionality of the Unified Social Registry system and its utilization for social assistance and the rapid scale-up of programmes, including the 3C	
<b>The Gambia</b>	Revitalizing the value chains and market access of smallholder farmers to institutional markets in the Gambia	
<b>Bhutan</b>	Empower youth and volunteers in digitization skills: a pilot project for mapping of trails and critical infrastructure in Bhutan	
<b>Indonesia</b>	Disaster-ready youth: boosting disaster management capacities through intra-regional peer learning	
<b>Philippines</b>	Creating responsive opportunities towards progress and sustainability	
<b>Algeria</b>	Identification of areas of improvement of the national school feeding programme of Algeria in the context of COVID-19	
<b>RBJ</b>	RBJ Regional South-South Supply Chain Cooperation	
<b>RBJ &amp; RBN</b>	RBJ-RBN Regional Project	

# REGIONAL OUTLOOK: SOUTHERN AFRICA

In a region where over 60% of the people depend on small-scale farming to meet their basic needs, climate extremes, conflict, and the pandemic have exacerbated the number of people facing food insecurity and malnutrition in Southern Africa.

Thanks to the facilitation of the Regional Bureau in Johannesburg (RBJ), several countries such as Namibia, Madagascar, Zambia, and Zimbabwe are engaged in implementing SSTC pilot projects, to leverage knowledge and innovation that can help address these complex challenges. A few examples from 2021 are:

## SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE SHARES KNOWLEDGE WITH MOZAMBIQUE ON A LAW TO REGULATE THE NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING AND HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Upon request of the Government of Mozambique, WFP organized a virtual meeting in September 2021 with representatives from São Tomé and Príncipe to facilitate an exchange of experiences in school feeding.

In 2010, the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe drafted a law (4/2012) that regulated the gradual transfer of responsibility for implementing school meals from WFP to the government. This sought to create a legal and regulatory framework in São Tomé and Príncipe that would guarantee the sustainability of the programme and contribute to its full ownership by the government.

This knowledge exchange aimed to assist Mozambique in developing a law to regulate its own National School Feeding Programme.

## ZIMBABWE BUILDS RESILIENCE OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

As part of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, the Government of India confirmed the contribution of almost USD 1 million to WFP Zimbabwe to help affected populations tackle climate shocks.

Since Zimbabwe has experienced consecutive years of drought, cyclones and unpredictable weather patterns, the contribution was used to assist more than 5,200 smallholder farmers in Chiredzi and Mangwe districts.

In late 2021, 5,204 input packages (consisting of sorghum, cow peas seeds, Compound D and CAN fertiliser) were delivered to WFP warehouses and distributed to the smallholder farmers in Chiredzi and Mangwe.

Due to national COVID-19 restrictions, a handover ceremony for the input packages took place in Harare, presided over by Director of the Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX) and WFP Representative and Country Director with His Excellency Ambassador Shri. Vijay Khanduja as the guest of honour.

All targeted beneficiaries in the two districts successfully received their inputs prior to onset of the rains at the beginning of the 2021/22 agricultural season.

The project partners, FAO and Agritex, provided trainings to 42 extension officers and 4,962 smallholder farmers in conservation agriculture techniques, organisational management and collective marketing.



## \$1 MILLION FROM THE INDIA-BRAZIL- SOUTH AFRICA (IBSA) FUND TO SUPPORT SMALLHOLDER MARKET ACCESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM BRAZIL

In August 2021, WFP mobilised a USD \$1 million contribution from the IBSA Fund for a field pilot project in the Republic of Congo (RoC). The IBSA project in RoC, which will be jointly implemented by the Government of RoC and the Government of Brazil with support from WFP (WFP CO RoC, WFP CoE Brazil and SSTC team in HQ), aims to strengthen institutional capacity to expand smallholder farmers' access to markets, including through the school feeding programme. The Government of Brazil, which sponsored the initiative, will provide technical assistance and share its recognized expertise in smallholder farming and school feeding programming with RoC's national partners (Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Education). Project implementation is aimed to start at the end of 2022 for the duration of 2 years.

# REGIONAL OUTLOOK: WESTERN AFRICA

In West Africa, thanks to the support of COs and technical assistance of the Regional Bureau in Western Africa (RBD), 5 countries—Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Gambia and Togo – implemented SSTC pilot projects to respond to increasing food security and nutrition needs. Other host countries, such as Nigeria, leveraged SSTC to leap forward progress on specific national agendas. Here are some highlights from 2021:



## THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD TAPS INTO SSTC TO IMPROVE SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SINGLE REGISTRY MECHANISMS

In December 2021, WFP Chad and RBD facilitated an online conference between Chad, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Republic of Congo and Kenya, with the participation of the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth from Brazil. The event enabled peer learning at policy and technical levels on the management and operation of social registries for social protection.

Participants included the Ministries of Economy and Development Planning of Chad and their homologues in Kenya, Burkina Faso, and the Republic of Congo. In January 2022, Chad participated in a study tour to Kenya to learn about social protection and single registry mechanisms in view of the pandemic. This was key to expand knowledge about the Kenyan experience and gain insights on options to enhance the system in Chad.

The collaboration continued in March 2022 through a workshop in Chad that helped reflect on how to contextualize learnings from the exchanges with other countries and translate this into tangible actions to enhance Chad's social registry. Experts from the Kenyan Government also joined the workshop to provide technical training elements, advice, and support with the facilitation.

As concrete follow-up, Chad revived the review process of drafting the national social protection strategy, to better incorporate and reflect the role and visions for the social registry in Chad in the social protection sector and beyond.

## GUINEA ON THE WAY TO REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES IN THE RICE SECTOR THROUGH CHINA'S SUPPORT

In February 2022, the Government of Guinea organized a National Workshop for Assessing PHL in the Rice Value Chain, which included participation from China's Henan University of Technology.

This collaboration was facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Guinea and WFP Guinea CO with support from CERFAM and WFP China CoE. During the workshop, participants exchanged knowledge and expertise to reduce PHL by leveraging modern technology and identifying practical solutions for the challenge.

Experts from China also shared good practices for post-harvest management of rice during the drying, storage, processing, and packaging stages.

As a result, a report and action plan for the reduction of PHL and its optimization in Guinea were validated by the government and will inform the way forward to continue the collaboration.

## NIGERIA: STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN SCHOOL FEEDING AND ITS LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

In December 2021, WFP facilitated and funded a hybrid event for knowledge exchanges to support the integration of Nigeria's school feeding policy into the Nigerian national food system.

The event included the Nigerian Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development, the Nigerian School Meals Multi-Sectoral Steering Committee and WFP Nigeria. RBD and WFP CoE Brazil facilitated the online participation of the Government of Brazil and the Chinese Ministry of Education.

Best practices from the Nigerian, Chinese and Brazilian experiences were presented and discussed, as well as global and regional school feeding strategies supported by WFP.

By introducing national key stakeholders to successful experiences from the Global South, the Government of Nigeria saw first-hand how to catalyze the development of the local economy and related value chains through school-based programmes.

# REGIONAL OUTLOOK: EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

## IN FOCUS: REGIONAL MAPPING OF SSTC OPPORTUNITIES

In March 2022, the WFP Regional Bureau in Nairobi (RBN) and the SSTC Unit in HQ finalized a Regional Mapping of SSTC Opportunities in East and Central Africa. The mapping provides an overview of 14 concrete “South-South engagement and investment opportunities” across areas where WFP is supporting host governments to address challenges in food security and nutrition. This includes opportunities in emergency preparedness and response, social protection, school feeding, food systems, amongst others.

Just as an example, one of the SSTC opportunities mapped includes “promoting inter and intra-regional collaboration on multi-risk monitoring to strengthen early warning systems and anticipatory action in East Africa through WFP-facilitated SSTC”. WFP COs, RBx and CoEs can use the mapping to support the development of upcoming programme and partnership engagement strategies, or formulation of upcoming Country Strategic Plans in the region. A similar methodology was also applied in WFP Regional Bureau in Dakar (RBD) in 2019 and can be made available to other RBx upon demand to the SSTC Unit in HQ.

Through the facilitation of the Regional Bureau for Eastern & Central Africa (RBN) several countries, such as Burundi, Ethiopia and Kenya, are implementing SSTC field projects to augment country-led efforts to achieve Zero Hunger.

## KENYA COLLABORATES WITH CHINA TO IMPROVE SMALLHOLDER PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS

In line with government demand, WFP is supporting the implementation of a SSTC project leveraging Chinese expertise to address some of Kenya's challenges to support resilience of farmers in the arid and semi-arid land.

The key project deliverables in 2021 were:

- 1) A three-module e-learning course on cost effective preservation, storage and processing technologies. Focused on fresh food (vegetables and fruits) and grains (sorghum, maize, pulses) targeting smallholders and county officials. The course was developed by experts from China's National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration (NAFRA) with support from the WFP China CoE.
- 2) In 2021, the project also sought to set up a model of a Farmer Service Centre (FSC). The goal was to provide effective services to vulnerable smallholder farmers (e.g., aggregation hubs, adequate information on market opportunities, etc).

Seven FSCs engaged in various value chains and provided extension services to farmers. The Kenya pilot reached 135 local government staff and 4,264 farmers (52% were women) with a total of 4,399 people reached.

## ETHIOPIA LEARNING NOODLE FORTIFICATION TECHNIQUES FROM CHINA

WFP provides substantial support to refugees and internally displaced people with transfers of cereals, pulses, fortified blended foods and vegetable oil. However, in this food basket sorghum is not part of their regular diet, whilst pasta/noodles are.

To address this challenge, the Ethiopian Agency for Returnee and Refugee Affairs and WFP decided to develop a new product - sorghum-based fortified noodle/pasta made with sorghum/wheat flour blends.

In 2021, WFP Ethiopia explored solutions from China with the WFP China CoE to develop the sorghum-based fortified noodle, while addressing the micronutrient deficiency and sorghum acceptability.

This initiative allowed Chinese experts from the academic and private sectors to virtually share China's experience related to sorghum processing.

It also explored the feasibility of scaling-up production of multigrain noodles locally and creating conditions for the provision of processed noodles to people in need.



# REGIONAL OUTLOOK: NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

In a region heavily affected by some of the major world emergencies, WFP-facilitated SSTC plays a role in supporting governments to reach their zero hunger goals.

Jordan, Libya, Armenia, Syria, and Algeria are all tapping into SSTC with the technical assistance of the Regional Bureau for Northern Africa and the Middle East (RBC).

Some highlights of activities from 2021 are:

## JORDAN AND INDONESIA SHARE EXPERIENCES TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL CAPACITIES IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

In February 2022, the Governments of Jordan and Indonesia leveraged SSTC to exchange experiences in disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response (EPR). This initiative received financial support through the WFP's COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund.

WFP enabled a virtual exchange between the two countries to share Indonesia's good practices in impact analysis and risk monitoring focusing on drought upon request of the Government of Jordan, with a view of improving multi-risk monitoring.

A key takeaway of the virtual exchange is that WFP should continue fostering South-South partnerships between Jordan, Indonesia and potentially other countries. This will enable policy dialogue for optimizing governance systems around drought risk management.

This virtual exchange comes as the first SSTC activity that will complement WFP technical assistance to Jordan's National Centre for Security and Crises Management. The aim is to enhance the effectiveness and timeliness of the

national response to shocks and hazards through establishing a system that will improve disaster risk analysis and visualization.

## ARMENIA STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH CHINESE SOLAR TECHNOLOGY

Through the Second Wave SSTC COVID-19 Fund, the Government of Armenia is working with WFP to strengthen resilience of communities against multiple shocks and stressors in the village of Lusakert in Shirak, one of the most food insecure regions.

Specifically, through a transfer from China of a 20kW solar station, the village will save \$2,700 in electricity in 2022, which can be reinvested in agricultural support activities, such as fertilizer subsidies.

15 smallholder farmers received \$650 to invest in their fields to increase productivity and profitability, alongside being provided with plants to establish berry gardens for raspberries, blackberries, goji berries and currants and drip irrigation systems.

An online workshop on green energy and photovoltaic power technologies led by Professor Jinghui Xu from Northwest Agriculture & Forestry University, China was held.

37 representatives from the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the private sector, the United Nations, and the civil society sector attended the workshop.





# REGIONAL OUTLOOK: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In 2021, WFP in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has been at the forefront of engagement in SSTC. In response to an increase in needs, the WFP Regional Bureau in Panama (RBP), together with WFP COs, promoted intra, as well as, inter- regional exchanges in Ecuador, Peru, El Salvador and Dominican Republic.

Here are some key highlights from 2021:

## THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, COLOMBIA, MEXICO AND PERU EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Through the seed funding of the COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund, Dominican Republic with Colombia, Mexico, and Peru benefited from regional dialogues between February – May 2021 aimed at strengthening their social protection systems.

WFP facilitated three bilateral meetings and one high level webinar to exchange experiences between authorities from the Dominican Republic with representatives from the other three countries.

Just as some examples: from Colombia, the Department for Social Prosperity presented practices in targeting mechanisms and conditional transfers to assist the population affected by COVID-19. Representatives from the Dominican Republic introduced their existing social protection programmes with efforts to include historically excluded populations. From Mexico, authorities shared the lessons learned from the adaptation of its social protection system and programmes to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. In the case of Peru, Government experts from the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion shared their experiences with registry and interoperability of the social protection system databases.

As a result, countries identified the opportunity to develop a road map for joint work to continue pursuing SSTC with the aim of strengthening social protection systems in the region and developed a dossier of best practices in these thematic areas.

In February 2022, WFP held a High-Level Forum on Adaptive Social Protection Policies as a conclusion of the two phases of this SSTC project, to discuss strengthening sustainable and resilient food systems in the face of climate change.

More than 150 government officials from the LAC region participated, including high level representatives from the four countries involved.

## ECUADOR AND CHINA JOIN FORCES TO PROVIDE RURAL WOMEN WITH ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CULTIVATION PRACTICES

Since 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture in Ecuador, the WFP China CoE and the Government of China, have continued the strong collaboration in light of the WFP-MARA SSTC Field Pilot Initiative.

In February 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador and WFP CO, organized a virtual seminar in support of the implementation of the National Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women. A gender expert from MARA joined the virtual seminar to share knowledge from China, emphasizing the importance of generating rural development policies that focus on women.

In September 2021, Ecuador and China joined hands with WFP's support to organize a field demonstration at the Ecuadorian Community Social Development Association "La Elvira".

The demonstrations aimed at equipping La Elvira to replicate the rice-duck integrated farming technique in other communities in Ecuador in order to improve access to nutritious food, diversify incomes and reduce household expenses.

This technique is being contextualized in Ecuador with support from experts from China. As key features, the technique utilizes chemical-free production that enables environmentally friendly cultivation practices.

This is complemented by interventions that provide women smallholders with access to credit and resources with a view at enabling their economic empowerment.



# REGIONAL OUTLOOK: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

WFP in the Asia Pacific has been brokering SSTC both in the “changing lives” and “saving lives” agendas, by promoting SSTC field initiatives across the full portfolio of capacity strengthening activities in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bhutan and Philippines.

WFP supported host government engagement in SSTC to mitigate the impact of the pandemic through innovative solutions in disaster risk reduction (DRR), early warning and preparedness.

Some highlights include:

## SRI LANKA RECEIVED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM CHINA THROUGH WFP-FACILITATED SSTC FIELD PILOT

Sri Lanka is ranked sixth among the ten most affected countries by extreme weather events. In the dry zones of Sri Lanka, recurrent droughts and sudden rains resulted in major losses for smallholder farmers that are largely dependent on their rice and maize production.

This combined with challenges in post-harvest management puts the vulnerable communities at risk of food insecurity and acute malnutrition.

Hence, there was a need to enhance knowledge through SSTC with China in agricultural practices to increase productivity and lessen the risks of climate change and related extreme weather events impact.

The results achieved in 2021 were:

- 1) A five-module e-learning course on transforming smallholder farming into profitable agri-businesses was organized in November 2021. The course was designed and delivered by the Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences' experts to central and local government officials and farmer leaders with support from WFP China CoE;
- 2) Two grain dryers and a maize combined harvester were handed over to the targeted farmer organizations; and
- 3) In-field demonstrations were conducted for farmers, government officials and local private companies on the use of agricultural machinery and their benefits.

In total, the project benefited 544 people (23% women) of those 144 being national institutions' staff (central and local governments, as well as research centres) and 400 smallholder farmers from the selected project sites.

## SCHOOL FEEDING IN INDONESIA: WORKSHOP WITH BRAZIL TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING STRATEGY

This initiative aimed at supporting the Government of Indonesia to improve the nutrition status of primary school children by learning about Brazil's school-based interventions.

The exchange focused on enhancing nutrition education for school children and their family and school environment by improving synergies between the existing national school-based health programme (UKS) and the Family Hope (PKH) conditional cash transfer social protection programme.

As part of the project a number of technical and policy exchanges with other developing countries including Brazil were facilitated involving at least 70 Indonesian Government representatives from 9 government institutions including Ministry of Health, Education and Agriculture.

Following the exchange, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (MoECRT) developed the “[Balanced Diet and Healthy School Canteen Guidelines for primary school](#)”.

In addition, two policy papers on (i) enhancing UKS and (ii) building synergies between UKS and PKH were produced. These papers will inform WFP's technical assistance to government stakeholders on school nutrition over the next 5 years.



# THE WFP CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

The WFP Centres of Excellence are at the heart of WFP's efforts to support host governments through SSTC for SDG 2. As of 2011, WFP engagement in SSTC was spearheaded by the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil, initially focusing on homegrown school meals.

An expansion of WFP engagement in SSTC was further signalled by the establishment of other CoEs in China (2016) and Côte d'Ivoire (2019) and by the CoE in Brazil broadening its SSTC work beyond school feeding to encompass other dimensions of social protection, nutrition and smallholder farmer support.

# WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER IN BRAZIL

In 2021, the WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) against Hunger celebrated [10 years of its creation](#).

The occasion brought together government representatives from Brazil, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique and Lesotho as well as WFP to reflect on the successes achieved so far and to pave the way to 2030.

Throughout 2021, CoE Brazil maintained the path of adapting its operations to meet the growing challenges posed by the pandemic and increasing inequalities around the world.

For instance, the Centre has institutionalised the “[virtual visit](#)” modality, which provides remote, fast and low-cost technical assistance to countries that want to invest in and

develop their food security, nutrition and school feeding policies.


By featuring the main elements of the successful Brazilian experience through videos, publications and online workshops, it is a flexible and accessible tool for advocacy and capacity strengthening for school feeding programmes.

The CoE has also expanded its role in supporting actions to promote food and nutrition security. For a full overview of the work of conducted in 2021 by the WFP Brazil CoE more information can be found in the [Annual Report](#).

Here are some key results and examples of the activities conducted in 2021/2022:



**REMOTE ASSISTANCE TO 6 COUNTRIES**  
LESOTHO, PERU, INDONESIA, NIGERIA, NAMIBIA, ROMANIA



**RELEASED 10 PUBLICATIONS**  
INCLUDING COUNTRY CASES AND BRIEFS



**SIGNED OR RENEWED 15 PARTNERSHIPS**  
WITH GOVERNMENTS, NGOS, PRIVATE SECTOR



**PROVIDED SUPPORT TO 10 COUNTRIES**  
BENEFITTED FROM DONATIONS FROM BRAZIL

## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK TO DEVELOP SMART SOLUTIONS FOR SDG 2

In early 2021, WFP CoE Brazil and the food systems change laboratory of the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Skylab Foodlab) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at jointly producing knowledge and innovation.

This 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 COs and governments in the Global South.



## UMA DÉCADA DE COOPERAÇÃO

10 anos do Centro de Excelência contra a Fome do WFP no Brasil

A decade of cooperation - 10 years of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

## WFP COE BRAZIL WORKS WITH SIERRA LEONE TO PILOT HOME GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING

The Government of Sierra Leone is currently implementing a National School Feeding Programme in 14 districts, with WFP being the government's leading partner in this area.

The School Feeding Policy endorsed in 2021 recommends a shift toward the home-grown model, being piloted by the government in two districts.

WFP CoE Brazil worked closely with the WFP CO to facilitate a [virtual study visit in early 2022](#) involving 50+ participants from Sierra Leone central and district level government institutions, experts from Brazil and WFP staff to discuss about the home-grown component and how to link it with local agriculture.

The virtual visit is part of broader support being provided by the WFP CoE Brazil to the Sierra Leone country office, in an effort to enhance and scale-up their home-grown school feeding programme.

## PROMOTING SSTC AS A MODALITY TO STRENGTHEN HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING IN THE LAC REGION

In April 2022, the city of Barranquilla, in Colombia, hosted the 9th edition of the Regional School Feeding Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean.

WFP Brazil CoE participated in several sessions to underscore the key role of South-South exchanges amongst neighbouring countries in the region to improve governance systems and the management of school feeding programmes.

The similarities amongst the countries in the region are striking particularly on topics such as family farming, local markets and problems such as childhood obesity.

Throughout the event, experts and representatives from governments and international organizations discussed current challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Other topics included opportunities to strengthen school feeding, such as ensuring sustainable funding, investing in nutrition and socioeconomic impact.

At the end of the event, participants approved a joint statement that reinforces the importance of strengthening regional learning networks and exchanges between countries in the region.

## WFP COE BRAZIL LAUNCHES POLICY BRIEFS ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND MALNUTRITION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BRAZIL, COLOMBIA AND PERU

Since 2019, Brazil, Colombia and Peru have leveraged SSTC to share experiences in policies for advancing food security and nutrition. This collaboration was enabled in the framework of WFP's Nurture the Future Project, in collaboration with the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC).

An objective of this collaboration is to develop policy tools, including policy briefs, to share information on how to tackle the multiple burden of malnutrition and obesity.

In May 2021, the [first policy brief](#) was published with a view at informing strategy development by public managers at the local level (municipal and state managers) for the prevention and care of childhood obesity.

Following that, in November 2021, the [second policy brief](#) was released highlighting experiences from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru and outlining some steps for the prevention and care of obesity.

Leveraging knowledge of the 3 countries, the Nurture the Future Project informed the Brazilian National Strategy to tackle childhood obesity.

As next steps, the project aims to continue to strengthen knowledge networks and to facilitate more SSTC via national and international seminars.

Upcoming exchanges will continue exploring remote and cost-effective modalities of SSTC (e.g., seminars, publications, etc.).

To learn more and find out how you can contribute to this project, please visit the [project page](#).



# WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN CHINA

Recognizing China's tremendous achievements in reducing hunger and the importance of sharing experience with other countries, WFP and the Government of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March of 2016 to strengthen their partnership working towards ending global hunger. The establishment of the WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China CoE) is an entry point for countries of the Global South to innovative Chinese expertise and technology under 4 priority areas:

- 1 VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT FOR SMALLHOLDERS**
- 2 POST-HARVEST LOSS MANAGEMENT AND FOOD SYSTEMS**
- 3 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE**
- 4 INNOVATIVE POVERTY ALLEVIATION INITIATIVE**

WFP China CoE is at the forefront of the implementation of the global initiatives with the SSTC Field pilots and COVID-19 SSTC Opportunity Fund. It plays a key role in mobilizing technical assistance from China to respond to demands from host governments through WFP-facilitated SSTC and activities.

Here are some highlights of the work conducted by WFP China CoE including policy dialogue webinars, online workshops and seminars despite the restrictions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic:

## WEBINAR WITH THE NATIONAL DISASTER REDUCTION CENTRE OF CHINA ON EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR BETTER PREPAREDNESS

WFP China CoE and the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China held a webinar on Early Warning Systems for Better Preparedness in May 2021.

This was supported by the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) and MARA. The webinar focused on sharing China's experience on the operation and management of early warning systems.

115 participants joined to discuss how to address the bottleneck of early warning information dissemination and communication. Findings from this webinar may inform future SSTC initiatives in this area.

## SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ROADMAP FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURE

In July 2021, WFP China CoE and the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) co-organized a seminar on tropical agriculture in the Hainan Province, China.

80+ participants from government agencies, African and Asian embassies, enterprises, academia, WFP COs and CoEs joined. The seminar reviewed SSTC initiatives and projects facilitated by WFP China CoE and CATAS, such as on technical measures to achieve carbon neutrality, cassava value chain, tropical food storage & processing, ecological management in tropical areas, and tropical disaster risk reduction.

A key deliverable from the seminar includes a mapping of prioritized areas to form a roadmap for future cooperation. The event was a milestone in the establishment of a strategic partnership between WFP and CATAS.



## ENHANCING COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA-AFRICA ON RICE VALUE CHAIN

Funded by UN Office for SSC (UNOSSC), and facilitated by CERFAM and WFP CoE China, the China-Africa Rice Value Chain Development Initiative was rolled out in 2021 to support the rice sector in Côte d'Ivoire

In June 2021, WFP China CoE, UNOSSC, the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE), China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund), and CERFAM organized a policy dialogue to discuss how to enhance rice value chains through China-Africa cooperation.

The dialogue provided an opportunity to link China with partner countries in Africa to exchange views and solutions in this area. A total of 118 representatives attended the seminar on site, while 114 participants from 25 countries attended online.

The consultation facilitated exchanges of experiences and good practices in food fortification at the global, regional and national level. Some of the main recommendations include to entrust the African Union to formally spearhead and oversee fortification efforts in Africa; prioritize actions and investments in food fortification (i.e., in school feeding and during the first 1,000 days of life) and develop a clear action plan, coordinated by CERFAM, with roles, responsibilities, accountability, timelines and a funding strategy, to increase systemic and sustainable action on fortification.

The outcome of this seminar contributed to the joint initiative on "China-Africa Rice Value Chain Development" under the Global South-South Development Centre Project (GSSDC), enabled by WFP China CoE, CERFAM, CICETE and UNOSSC.

As a follow-up, in February 2022, WFP China CoE and CERFAM held an online workshop to strengthen PHL management for rice value chain development in Côte d'Ivoire.

As part of the workshop, six training modules were delivered by four Chinese experts from Jiangsu University and the Henan University of Technology.

A 'training of trainers' approach was adopted targeting participants from the Government, farmers organizations and NGOs of Côte d'Ivoire, who will disseminate the knowledge to local smallholder farmers.

## NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIA AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES TO PROMOTE SSTC

Government partnerships are at the cornerstone of the SSTC activities promoted by WFP China CoE. Alongside the strong ongoing partnership with MARA, FAO and IFAD in 2021 the number of partnerships with government agencies grew.

To mention a few, the Chinese Ministry of Environment and Ecology (MEE), the National Centre for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC), and the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS).

Along with many other Chinese academic partners including Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University (NWAUFU), Nanjing Agricultural University (NAU), Henan University of Technology (HAUT), Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU), and AliResearch as well as other private sector partners.



# WFP REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE (CERFAM)

The WFP Regional Centre of Excellence in Ivory Coast (CERFAM) is the result of the institutional commitment at the highest level of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and of a strategic partnership agreement with WFP to support the efforts of countries in Africa towards the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

As the first Centre in Africa, CERFAM has been playing a key role in leveraging African-generated solutions for Zero Hunger and nutrition.

Several have been captured in the Centre's knowledge management platform '[KEPT](#)': a directory of African innovations and a new digital tool to promote good practices and facilitate expertise sharing.

CERFAM functions as a regional hub for SSTC including through knowledge-sharing and partnership-building.

More information about CERFAM's mission, objectives and its main achievements to date can be found through this [Sway Presentation](#).

In 2021, CERFAM has positioned itself as a convener of high-level advocacy events and partnerships, a repository of good practices and broker of expertise in the region in areas such as cassava, banana and rice value chain improvements.

In addition, CERFAM has also strengthened the technical collaboration with WFP China CoE by the joint implementation of a rice value chain project in CIV and knowledge management activities with seminars, dialogues and webinars.

Some achievements from 2021/2022 include:

## THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO, BENIN, COTE D'IVOIRE AND WFP INCREASE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CASSAVA AND BANANA VALUE CHAINS

The Republic of Congo (RoC), in collaboration with WFP and CERFAM is scaling up efforts to strengthen cassava and banana value chains.

After a first technical mission in 2019, which resulted in seven new machines and a training in cassava processing products, a new technical mission was organized from July to August 2021.

A group which included ten Beninese and Ivorian technical experts supported by CERFAM, travelled to RoC to share knowledge in food processing and equipment manufacturing.

The experts trained approximately 200 artisans and smallholder farmers from 4 departments to produce modern equipment and techniques in order to process cassava and banana into quality derived products (i.e., grinder, screw press, flour refiner, etc.).

Following the training, participants developed 6 models of machines and produced 30 machines that can be used to improve the yield and production of by-products. This can be key to increasing the income of smallholder farmers, while saving resources by reducing the time of production.

By prioritizing women's cooperatives, the project also integrated cross-cutting dimensions and contributed to women's empowerment in value chain development.



**"THIS TRAINING WAS VERY VALUABLE FOR US, WE LEARNED A LOT OF THINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE LEARNED THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE THROWN AWAY WITH CASSAVA, WE CAN USE THE PEELINGS TO MAKE CATTLE FEED!"**

EMERAUDE, A MEMBER OF THE KOLIAMA COOPERATIVE SPECIALISING IN CASSAVA PROCESSING, WHO PARTICIPATED IN TRAINING FROM BENINESE AND IVORIAN EXPERTS, FACILITATED BY CERFAM.



## LEARNING EXCHANGE FROM BURUNDI TO BENIN FOR HOME GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES

Led by the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, a high-level government delegation from Burundi participated in a study visit to Benin in June 2021.

The First Lady, with the government delegation, responded to the invitation of WFP Burundi to discover the successful model of the National Integrated School Feeding Programme of Benin (PNASI), as well as the impact of school feeding on community livelihood and on human capital.

During the study visit, participants had the opportunity to visit local schools and meet with partners and communities. The government delegation also had working sessions with their Beninese counterparts to better understand the strategies, policies and implementation of the Beninese school feeding programme.

This mission facilitated by CERFAM was an opportunity to identify, document and disseminate potential good practices, from which other African countries could be inspired to improve their school feeding programmes.

## CERFAM AND PARTNERS COLLABORATE FOR FOOD FORTIFICATION IN AFRICA

In September 2021, CERFAM organized a high-level consultation on food fortification, in collaboration with the Government of Ivory Coast, the African Union and the West African Organization of Health.

The two-day consultation brought together more than 600 participants from 69 countries, with 88 panellists to discuss how to leverage food fortification through a dietary approach to reduce micronutrient deficiencies in Africa.

The consultation facilitated exchanges of experiences and good practices in food fortification at the global, regional and national level.



## SENEGAL SHARES ITS EXPERIENCE IN SCHOOL FEEDING WITH 150 ACTORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WITH SUPPORT FROM CERFAM

In February 2022, the Ministry of National Education of Senegal participated in a virtual workshop to share its experience on financing school feeding with intra and inter-regional partners, with CERFAM's facilitation. More than 150 actors and decision-makers participated in the workshop, including high-level representatives from Senegal, Benin, Togo, WFP CoE Brazil and the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF).

The workshop was also an opportunity for participants to learn about the experiences from GCNF, WFP, CoE Brazil, and the AU Commission for Education, Science and Technology. Some of the experience shared by Senegal includes the establishment of the Group of Friends of School Feeding in Senegal (GAASS): an informal advocacy network bringing together 20 eminent individuals – that aims to strengthen advocacy with decision-makers and other actors, contribute to the promotion of basic education and increase the utilization of school canteens.

This South-South exchange responds to some of the challenges faced by developing countries in identifying financially sustainable models for taking full ownership of school feeding programmes.

## COLLABORATION WITH AGREENIUM TO FOSTER KNOWLEDGE ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

CERFAM, through their multi-year partnership with Agreenium– the French training and research alliance for agriculture, food, environment and global health - co-organized a series of four webinars in 2021. These operated as a platform for discussions between 80 participants from universities, research institutes, government officials, technical and financial partners around the following topics: "Promoting Food Systems Transformation to Accelerate African Governments", "Efforts to End Hunger and Malnutrition During COVID-19 and Beyond", "Robust local food systems and the resilience of rural populations: what role for African smallholders and farmers?" and "Food waste in Africa: How to redesign and transform our food supply chains and food systems in a sustainable way?"

# WAY FORWARD



Building upon more than a decade of experience engaging in SSTC and the important progress made in 2021, several important milestones lie ahead for WFP in 2022/2023. Some of them are

- The consolidation of the SSTC Policy Update and presentation to the Executive Board for approval, which will provide strategic guidance for the coming years;
- Mainstreaming SSTC into WFP's country-level delivery and promoting global partnership with China, in line with evidence and results generated from the SSTC Field Pilot projects;
- Identifying flexible SSTC modalities and quick response approach, based on experience and results of COVID-19 SSTC Opportunity Fund.
- The implementation of the new RBA field SSTC initiative on home-grown school feeding, which will directly contribute to countries' commitments to the Global School Meals Coalition;
- The continuation of WFP's Global Task Force on SSTC which will help to consolidate WFP's corporate approach to SSTC while implementing WFP's management response to the SSTC policy evaluation; and
- Promoting digitalization and innovations from the Global South through the champion country winners of the innovation challenge.

In the face of mounting health, environmental and food shortage challenges, SSTC is expected to play a more prominent role in supporting countries to learn from each other and scale up home-grown innovations to reverse the trend of increasing hunger.

Going forward, WFP will increase emphasis in strengthening national systems at national and local levels, meeting needs in a way that strengthens systems and enables them to respond more effectively to future emergencies creating resilience.

WFP-facilitated SSTC is front and centre of this strategic and operational shift to advance country-led progress to fight hunger and malnutrition.

Building on the results and lessons learned over the past years, SSTC holds the potential to greatly contribute to deliver on WFP's strategic outcomes for the next 4 years.

With each new SSTC initiative and partnership coming onboard, more opportunities are opening up.

Ensuring a strong link between SSTC, WFP's work on Country Capacity Strengthening and Partnership will be key for WFP to unlock those new opportunities and offer a comprehensive package of support to its host governments.

So each country in the Global South – regardless of its size or level of economic development – can leverage its potential to become “providers” of experience and solutions in the fight against hunger and contribute to making hunger and malnutrition an issue of the past rather than their future.

For more information about WFP's work in SSTC and how to receive support in SSTC contact:

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