



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

**LIFAD**
Investing in rural people

**WFP**
World Food
Programme

UNITED NATIONS ROME-BASED AGENCIES

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION





THE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION CHALLENGE

The world is facing a hunger crisis on an unprecedented scale, food and energy prices have never been higher, with devastating impacts on the world's most vulnerable people, countries and economies. This crisis poses significant challenges to national food systems of countries in the Global South, already struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, adapt to climate change, and address persistent and growing inequalities.

WHAT CAN THE ROME-BASED UN AGENCIES DO?

The UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) - FAO, IFAD and WFP - with their shared mandate of ensuring food security for all people, have joined forces to support one of the most impactful evidence-based interventions to positively transform global food systems: national Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programmes.

In line with the UN Food Systems Summit outcome and the Global School Meals Coalition, the RBAs will work together to strengthen country capacities to design and implement national HGSF programmes by facilitating South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). These efforts build on a long-standing collaboration in SSTC between the RBAs which was consolidated in the Joint RBA Roadmap Towards BAPA+40.



By leveraging each agency's comparative advantage, RBA-facilitated SSTC can play a pivotal role in enabling countries of the Global South to share their knowledge and experience to strengthen national food systems to reach the most vulnerable individuals and groups.

THE JOINT PROGRAMME ON HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING

The RBA joint programme has the potential to:



Enhance sustainable and inclusive public food procurement mechanisms;



Promote the production of nutrient-dense foods;



Support small-scale farmers, food processors and other local producers to access markets and enhance their active participation in local and nutrition-sensitive food value chains;



Improve the access to and consumption of healthy diets among targeted beneficiaries (such as school children and the local community).

The expected duration of the programme is 3 years with a total budget of USD 10 million.

POTENTIAL TARGET COUNTRIES

The initial target countries are the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of the Philippines, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Senegal. The programme can be expanded to other countries upon demand and resource availability.

The criteria for countries to participate in this programme are:

- i) ongoing support from RBAs to national governments to strengthen their HGSF programmes;
- ii) opportunities to build on successful RBA collaboration in the field;
- iii) strong country leadership and interest in SSTC and RBA collaboration;
- iv) government participation in the School Meals Coalition.



PROPOSED OPPORTUNITIES

THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA



Help both the sharing of experiences from Kenya with interested countries and the learning by Kenya of successful home-grown innovations implemented in other countries, particularly at the sub-national level.

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE



Support coordination of national stakeholders, thereby strengthening the country's implementation capacity of HGSF programme.

THE PHILIPPINES



Improve the procurement of local, diversified, safe and fresh/processed food (complementary to IFR) to school children from local farmers.

THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL



Integrate nutrition within local food value chains, especially among vulnerable communities; and provide support to scale up the national and local home-grown school meals programme in vulnerable areas by improving local food value chains.

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Strengthen national institutions in setting up information and communications technology, monitoring and evaluation systems and providing training to small-holder farmers to establish producers' organizations and cooperatives.

NEXT STEPS

More partners are needed to support this project in order to assist countries in improving their home-grown school feeding programmes. The RBAs invite interested parties to express their willingness to contribute to this initiative in various forms, including through financial, technical and human resources. These resources will be critical to enabling collaboration across the Global South, contributing to achieving the School Meal Coalition, reflecting the spirit of the UN Food Systems Summit and facilitating dialogue amongst countries' governments, development agencies, local communities and various stakeholders for food and nutrition security.



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