



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
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WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

Regional Bureau for **Eastern Africa**

School Based Programmes

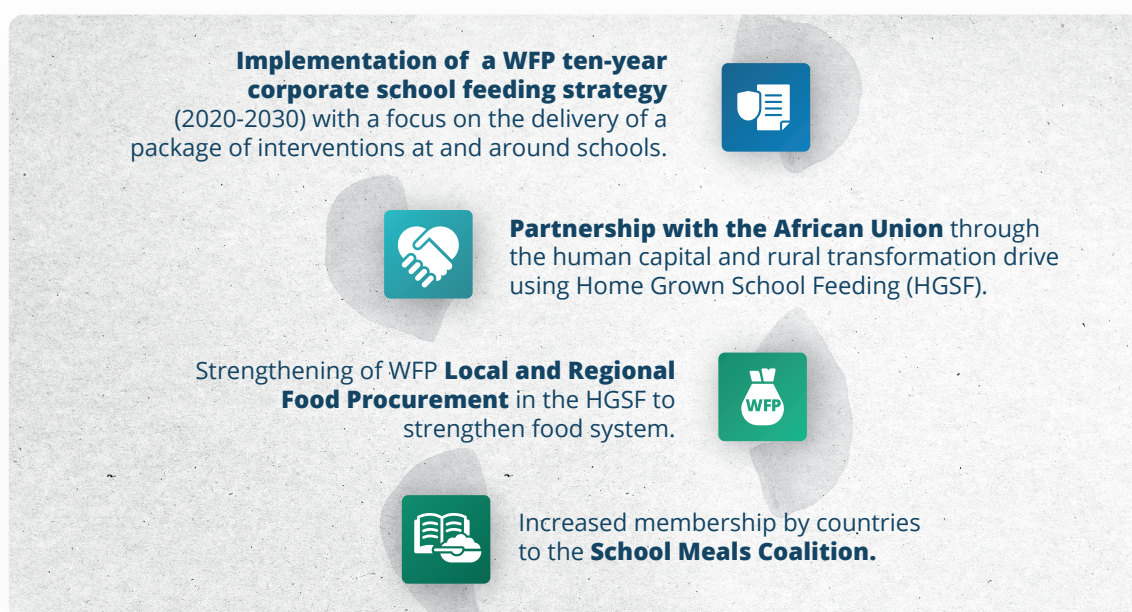
2022 Regional **Achievements and Outlook**

April 2023

Regional **Overview and Achievements**

Governments have made efforts in the Eastern Africa region to restore education and school-based programs following the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the deteriorating food insecurity due to conflict, the global food crisis, and the drought in 2022 masked the progress of school-based programs especially across the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya).

WFP has continued to work with partners and governments in the region to safeguard the gains made earlier in school feeding. Key opportunities in the region include:



The Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa is supporting governments to explore new financing initiatives to increase coverage, quality, and sustainability by seeking partnerships and enhancing advocacy efforts through school feeding value for money studies. WFP's role is, therefore, progressively shifting towards supporting governments through combined technical and operational assistance where necessary. The Eastern African region has embraced shifts as part of the regional implementation plan as follows:

Increased Government Investment in School Meals

The potential to finance school meals using government funding grew, with seven out of nine countries in the region joining the school meals coalition¹. The school meals coalition is a government-led financing initiative to implement national school feeding programs.

To date in the Eastern Africa region, 15.5 million children benefit from school meals. WFP supported 4.5 million school children; an increase of 10 percent, while governments of Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi, and Djibouti either funded or expanded their fiscal allocation to school meals, thereby contributing to scale.

¹ The School Meals Coalition (SMC) is an initiative of governments and a wide range of partners to drive actions that can urgently re-establish, improve and scale up food and education systems, support pandemic recovery and drive actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.



School meals became universal in Rwanda and reached **4.5 MILLION** school-going children in 2022 compared to 3.3 million in 2021. The Government of Rwanda increased its national budget for school feeding from USD 34.5 million in 2021 to **USD 74 MILLION** in 2022, covering 90 percent of school feeding costs in pre-primary and primary schools and 15 percent of school feeding costs in secondary school.

South Sudan allocated **10 PERCENT** of the national budget to support school feeding activities. All these government initiatives reflect the increasing domestic financing by governments in the region.



The Government of Ethiopia and the Government of Kenya are investing up to **USD 83 MILLION** and **USD 18 MILLION**, respectively, in the national school feeding programmes.

In Kenya, **2.5 MILLION** children in the Arid and Semi-Arid lands were served under the nationally owned school feeding programme.



Increasing Decentralized Procurement for Home-Grown School Feeding

Since 2021, the Home-Grown School Feeding model has gained momentum among governments and is currently being implemented in all countries at varying scales. WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding has tangible benefits across different sectors including the agricultural sector, education, health and nutrition, and social protection.

Four (Rwanda, Kenya, Somalia, and Burundi) countries adopted the cash-to-schools model to enhance local procurement, where schools purchase their food commodities from smallholder farmers. The Home-Grown School Feeding creates structured and predictable markets for smallholder farmers while at the same time contributing to education outcomes, improved health, and nutrition, fostering resilience of communities, linking diets, and food systems, improving local agriculture and market linkages, and serving as a safety net.



Burundi has made extra steps in the decentralization of procurement from the national to the lower administrative levels, allowing the purchase of food commodities from smallholder farmer cooperatives for school meals.



In Uganda, WFP supports the Karamoja School Feeding Programme aimed to end hunger, and malnutrition, double agricultural productivity and ensure sustainable food systems. WFP procured 411 mt of local foods from smallholder farmers, worth over USD 300,000 for use in the Karamoja feeds Karamoja initiative.



In South Sudan, WFP procured 517 mt of maize worth USD 198,932 from 3,805 smallholders (1,255 women) for use in 46 schools.



Prioritised Evidence Generation – School Feeding as a Social Protection Safety Net

In collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton, a review of the school feeding-social protection nexus as part of the social protection policy was finalized. The review aimed at collating existing regional evidence on the extent to which school feeding programmes contribute towards social protection. Findings show that although school feeding is the largest safety net regionally and globally, funding was not allocated, particularly for emergency school feeding, as part of shock-responsive social protection. Moving forward, the policy paper will be used to advocate for resource mobilization to invest in school-based programs, within social protection as a safety net.

Improving School Outcomes in WFP Supported Schools

WFP remained a partner of choice to the governments in Eastern Africa, driving school feeding policies and delivery of school meals to promote learning, health and nutrition for school-age children and adolescents. In most countries, school enrolment and attendance improved.

School enrolments for WFP-supported schools increased in South Sudan and Sudan, while attendance rates in schools in Rwanda, Burundi, and Sudan remained high and above the set targets. Despite these achievements, the school feeding programme was impacted by conflict in some countries, drought, and the global food crisis. This was further exacerbated by the reduced funding for school-based programs, leading to some countries suspending or reducing the number of schools supported with school meals. An estimated 3 million children may have missed both learning and school meals in the region, mainly due to the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia & Kenya) drought as communities moved to search for water, conflict in Ethiopia forcing displacements and communities to flee their homes, and Ebola outbreak in Uganda. This notably affected school enrolment and retention in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

Country	Enrolment rates in school meals supported schools		Attendance rate in WFP school meals supported schools		Retention rates in WFP school meals supported schools	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
South Sudan ²	13	10				
Sudan	9	-5	95		96	94
Ethiopia	7.6	4	71	92	79.5	85.5
Kenya	-5.77	-0.16	97	97.8	---	---
Rwanda	---		92.2	94	88	82
Somalia ³	13.6					
Burundi ⁴	8.1		96.8		91.9	
Uganda ⁵	20.3	---	73	---	---	---

2023 Outlook

WFP will continue to provide technical assistance and strengthen advocacy to position school meals and HGSF as an anchor for human capital development, promote intentional linkage to LRFP, and leverage schools as a system for resilience.

The articulation of commitments or the joining of the school meals coalition (SMC) and the launch of the East Africa Community SMC sub-regional network is planned in 2023, with the expectation to reach 100 percent membership.

- The Regional Bureau will generate evidence on cash to schools' approaches, and effectiveness and demonstrate accountability by supporting country offices to choose and include appropriate monitoring and evaluation indicators, including knowledge management.
- Internally and externally, WFP will leverage global, regional, and local alliances for multisectoral approaches and resource mobilization. The school-based implementation plans will also continue to be updated given the unabated drought, conflict, and displacement.



2 There was no analysis on attendance indicators because of technical glitches on data collection that affected the quality of the attendance data.

3 Indicator was introduced late in 2022 as a result of Budget Revision to the CSP hence no data was collected.

4 Indicator introduced in 2022.

5 2021 values are missing as schools remained closed in 2021 due to COVID 19.

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