



Photo: WFP/Caroline Melo



World Food Programme
Centre of Excellence
against Hunger

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Annual Report 2023

Centre of Excellence against Hunger

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Dear reader,

In 2023, humanitarian emergencies exacerbated by conflict and climate disasters made it even more difficult for the World Food Programme (WFP) to save lives. At the same time, the development work to change lives kept its leading role and was represented by lasting solutions to promote food security and sustainable agriculture. The work of the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil is within this axis.

Throughout the year, the WFP Centre of Excellence continued its mission to support Global South countries in developing strategies to reduce inequalities; expanded its work to support countries in the areas of school meals, nutrition, and smallholder farming; created partnerships; and expanded projects that were already underway.

The Centre of Excellence began to act more directly to support the Brazilian government within the Food Systems Summit and the Global School Meals Coalition frameworks. The WFP has a secretariat role in the Coalition. In October, Brazil took over a co-chairmanship position in the group, alongside France and Finland, representing an important step in Brazil's global role in school meals.

In 2023 we also saw the birth of a new project in partnership with the Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and financing from the IBSA Fund to improve food security and nutritional status of smallholder farmers, especially women and schoolchildren in the Republic of the Congo.

With Togo, we have resumed a partnership that has lasted for over a decade. With Angola

and Namibia, we have deepened technical support through the "Virtual Study Visit: Brazil" and face-to-face missions. The Centre of Excellence technical team also supported the Philippines, Armenia, Nicaragua, and Portuguese-speaking African countries such as Angola and Mozambique. In Benin, Tanzania, and Mozambique, the Beyond Cotton Project team carried out training missions on sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, contributing to the quality of life of farmers and students.

Last year, we also celebrated the arrival of Rita Lobo to the WFP family as an official supporter to help amplify debates about proper and healthy diets, how to reduce food waste, and avoid consuming ultra-processed foods. We also count on the support of the Government of Bahia and the Bahia Sem Fome programme to carry out various awareness activities in Salvador to mark World Food Day.

In addition, we have formalized a partnership with the Fome de Tudo Institute to support school meals in Latin America and the Caribbean and develop awareness-raising activities and fundraising campaigns.

In this report, we show how these and other important partnerships enable us to reach more people with relevant information not only about the situation of food insecurity in the world, but especially about how we can design and execute solutions that will change lives forever.

Have a fun read!

Daniel Balaban

Highlights of the year

+ 670 people

supported in 8 Beyond Cotton Project technical missions

20% reduction

in costs and

93% increase

in profitability among farmers in Tanzania

16 countries

supported in face-to-face and remote actions to strengthen school feeding and agriculture

92% increase

in reach for Instagram posts



Do you want to be a partner of the WFP Centre of Excellence?

ARE YOU PART OF WFP?

Get to know our support offers in the areas of school meals and smallholder farming in

<https://centrodeexcelencia.org.br/intercambios-virtuais/>

Access the form and contact us.

DO YOU REPRESENT A GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION, OR PRIVATE COMPANY?

Contact us at brazil.centroofexcellence@wfp.org

SCHOOL MEALS



Photo: WFP/Lena von Zabern

The partnership between the WFP Centre of Excellence and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE), through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), recorded important advances in 2023. The announcement of Brazil as the new co-chair of the School Meals Coalition, along with France and Finland, took place during the Coalition's first global meeting in Paris in October.

In addition, the Centre of Excellence supported FNDE and ABC in developing the book "School Feeding in Brazil: An Overview of the Best Recipes", which brings together recipes and testimonials from lunch ladies and nutritionists involved in the competitions, presents a panorama of school meals in the country, and portrays how Brazil has inspired other countries. Also published in English with support from the Centre of Excellence, the publication is an important tool for valuing the Brazilian school feeding programme. It allows more countries to know initiatives that appreciate the Brazilian cuisine served in schools and the professionals involved in this work.

The book was launched at an event at the Brazilian Embassy in Rome, Italy. On the occasion, the three winners of the last reality show received a homage. Elisa Cristina Szekut da Silva, from the Capitão Leônidas Marques municipality, in Paraná; Maria de Lourdes dos Santos Nascimento, from Lucena, in Paraíba; and Rosani Justi dos Santos, from Itati, in Rio Grande do Sul, were the first three placed in the last edition.

The Centre of Excellence will also support FNDE in the production of a new edition of a reality show about the life of Brazil's lunch ladies. The show will be a powerful tool to enhance a successful policy that is already recognized in several parts of the world. The initiative aims to highlight the cultural and culinary characteristics

the participating lunch ladies use, emphasizing the appreciation of fresh food, smallholder farming, and fighting hunger and malnutrition. It also reinforces the importance of healthy diets and menu design in schools, with attention to preparation, handling and storage of ingredients, and dissemination of pedagogical tools.

The School Meals Coalition is an initiative led by its member states, launched in 2021, at the United Nations Food Systems Summit. The Coalition aims to ensure that every child in the world receives a healthy meal at school by 2030. The World Food Programme serves as secretariat to the Coalition. Throughout 2023, the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger continued to work towards Coalition goals, providing information and technical assistance to foster better coordination, political will, and engagement needed to create change through school meals advocacy. The Centre of Excellence also actively participated in the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition, led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Teams from the Centre of Excellence participated in meetings and collaborated with preparation of documents.

The Centre of Excellence also works to support countries through remote or face-to-face technical cooperation. Here are some highlights:

Angola

In December 2023, Angola representatives participated in technical activities and field visits to learn about the Brazilian experience in the management of the National School Feeding Programme, especially in the areas of monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and purchase mechanisms for smallholder agriculture. The visit is part of the partnership framework activities planned between the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil, the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE) and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The agenda included technical meetings and field visits in Brasília and Goiânia, including the Center of Collaboration for School Feeding and Nutrition (CECANE) at the Federal University of Goiás (UFG) for a meeting with smallholder farmers. The delegation also visited two schools.

Armenia

Throughout the year, the WFP Centre of Excellence and the Country Office in Armenia hosted two online sessions to share school meals best practices and challenges from each country. Technical teams from both sides met to exchange experiences in programmes and policies in the area. These sessions were an internal exercise and a first step in the preparation phase for a Virtual Study Visit between the governments of Brazil and Armenia to take place soon.

Philippines

Representatives from the Centre of Excellence attended a meeting at the WFP office in Manila, Philippines, to discuss possible collaboration on school meals between the two offices. The collaboration between the Centre of Excellence, the Philippines Country Office and the Philippine government began in 2013, with a study visit aimed at understanding Brazil's social protection programmes. In 2019, the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil supported the design of a school meals document. In 2022, the Centre of Excellence also facilitated the donation of USD 100,000 from the Brazilian government to the Philippines. The humanitarian contribution sought to support the most urgent needs of populations affected by typhoon Odette/Rai.

Namibia

In November 2023, representatives from Namibia participated in online activities to strengthen school meals capacities through the "Virtual Study Visit: Brazil". The visit was created in 2021 by the WFP Centre of Excellence, in partnership with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE), and aims to facilitate exchanges between Brazil and other countries in the global South. Thus, it saves resources and complements face-to-face visits to Brazil. Namibia has participated in two remote knowledge-sharing sessions and is committed to improving its National School Feeding Programme, which has been implemented since the 1990s and adopted the home-grown model in 2021.



Republic of the Congo

In 2023, support for the development of home-grown school meals in the Republic of the Congo gained new momentum with the start of a new project, funded by the India, Brazil and South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA). The WFP Centre of Excellence, together with the WFP Country Office in the Republic of the Congo, the WFP South-South Cooperation Unit in Rome, and the governments of the Republic of the Congo and Brazil will work together to improve food security and nutritional status of smallholder farmers, especially women and schoolchildren in the Congo.

The project, called “Strengthening access to local markets for small producers in the Republic of the Congo through South-South Cooperation”, has a list of activities which include strengthening decision-makers’ institutional capacity at the central and local levels through a “training of trainers” approach and a provision of guidance in the workplace, with participation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the Ministry of Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education, and Literacy in the Congo. [Learn more about the project here.](#)

In April, a delegation from Congo visited Brazil to see up close the implementation of the Brazilian law that requires purchasing from local smallholder farmers for the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), the connection between the programme and rural development initiatives, and details on how schools plan their weekly menus and how students are involved in nutrition and health education activities.

In the following month, the WFP Centre of Excellence undertook a mission to the WFP Country Office in the Republic of the Congo to visit schools and interview managers and principals to update the needs of the school feeding programme.

Nicaragua

The Centre of Excellence and the WFP Country Office in Nicaragua facilitated a first meeting between Brazil and Nicaragua on home-grown school meals. The meeting is part of the Centre’s work to promote technical exchanges between Brazil and other countries and improve school feeding programmes. The meeting focused mainly on the Brazilian National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) experience with purchases from small local farmers, governance, and legal frameworks.

East Timor

The president of East Timor, José Ramos-Horta, attended a presentation on the WFP Centre of Excellence’s work and the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) performance. He also participated in meetings on possible partnerships. The meeting, which took place at the country’s embassy in Brasília, emphasized the Brazilian school meals experience as an effective strategy to fight hunger. In addition to presenting measures that Brazil adopts to fight malnutrition and to produce healthy and adequate food, it discussed investments in basic sanitation and other social protection programmes. The government of East Timor and the Centre of Excellence have been working together since 2011, when a technical mission from the country was in Brazil to discuss strengthening school meals.

Togo

Representatives from governments and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) offices in Brazil and Togo had a virtual meeting on November 14th to mark nearly 10 years of partnership on school meals and plan the next stage of this cooperation. During the meeting, the participants discussed the progress made in recent years and challenges for the new scale-up stage of the African country's school feeding programme. Togo is preparing to expand the provision of school meals by 35% by 2025, reaching 300 thousand beneficiaries. [Learn more about the history of cooperation with Togo.](#)

Portuguese-speaking African countries

The support of the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil to Portuguese-speaking African countries has a long history. In 2023, two activities gained prominence. In March, a team from the Centre participated in the II Seminar of Good Practices on School Feeding in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) in Luanda, Angola, which had as its theme "Home-grown school meals: a crucial strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".

During the two event days, representatives from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Timor-Leste, the WFP Centre of Excellence, the WFP Country Office in Angola, private sector and civil society participated, in person and remotely, in debates and round tables on different aspects of school feeding programmes. The seminar was attended by the Minister of Education of Angola, Luísa Grilo.

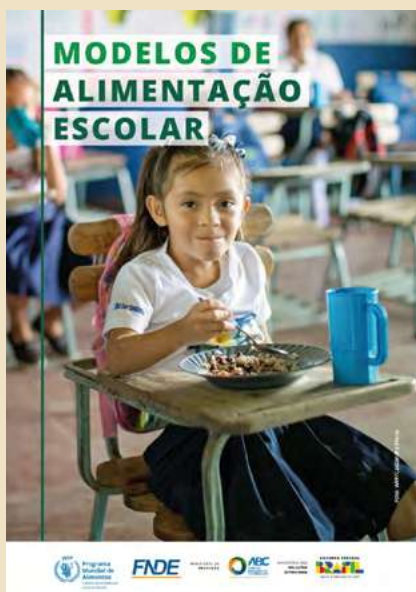
Between 2022 and 2023, the Centre organized and promoted three virtual meetings to exchange experiences, focused on nutrition, home-grown school meals, and monitoring and evaluation of national school feeding programmes. The most recent one, in June 2023, brought together government representatives of Portuguese-speaking countries to evaluate good practices and share examples of national initiatives for monitoring and evaluating school feeding programmes. The webinar brought together experts and technicians from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, and East Timor.



Photo: WFP/Denise Colletta

Publication

SCHOOL FEEDING MODELS



At a time when countries and their partners are evaluating strategies to reduce chronic subnutrition, malnutrition and poverty, the discussion on school feeding models becomes imperative. Different contexts impose different models for design, implementation, and monitoring of national school feeding programmes. Therefore, the exchange of experiences is a relevant strategy for overcoming challenges and developing innovative solutions. This publication explains, with examples from around the world, how each model works and how they can be useful for school feeding programmes.

[Click to download](#)



SMALLHOLDER FARMING



Photo: WFP/Esteban Barrera

South-South cooperation: technical missions to African countries

Throughout 2023, the Beyond Cotton team promoted eight missions to African countries. The missions aimed to monitor and evaluate the project's activities executed and conducted by each country's team and promote capacity development for farmers and technicians through supplying experts from the Brazilian Cooperating Institutions and government partners.

The missions carried out in 2023 directly benefited more than 670 people.

The project team held a first technical meeting with nutritionist professors of the Brazilian Cooperating Institutions (IBC) that work in Beyond Cotton nutrition activities: Federal University of Lavras (UFLA), Federal Fluminense Institute (IFF), Federal University West Bahia (UFOB) and Federal University of Campina Grande (UFCG). During the meeting, the teachers discussed the process of project design in the countries, the necessary adaptations for each context, and exchanged information about differences in project execution in each country.

Food monotony is among the main challenges to improve food and nutrition among the populations of Benin, Mozambique, and Tanzania. In addition, although some regions produce fruit, beneficiaries do not consume fruit regularly. Therefore, the consumption of micronutrient-rich foods is scarce, which harms farmers' and schoolchildren's health. This meeting enabled the Beyond Cotton nutrition team to establish methodologies and goals with the common aim of promoting food and nutrition sovereignty and security for the project beneficiaries.

The Beyond Cotton Project is a joint initiative from the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, with support from the Brazilian Cotton Institute. Its aim is to support small cotton producers and public institutions in African countries to link cotton by-products (seed oil, cake etc.) and intercropped crops such as corn, sorghum, and beans to safe markets, including school feeding programmes.

The objective is to increase production, local income, and food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers. Learn more about the project:

Beyond  Cotton

[Click to go to the website](#)

MOZAMBIQUE

Farmers from the provinces of Maputo, Tete, and Manica received training on pest management, soil analysis, and evaluation of crop areas and participated in culinary workshops on the appreciation of local food and its culture, presenting new techniques on using food in its entirety. Technicians from the Federal University of Lavras, a project partner, offered training in rural extension methodologies, processing, ginning, delinting, using cotton by-products, collective organizing, and producing seeds.

The WFP Centre of Excellence also established a direct partnership with the WFP Adaptive Food Systems for Climate Change unit in Mozambique and carried out a technical mission to the districts of Caia, Maringue, and Chemba to provide training with beneficiaries of the Integrated Climate Risk Management (ICRM) project. The trainings focused on the development of climate-smart agriculture techniques, use of conservation agriculture tools, composting, pest management, and establishment of low-cost infrastructure for water harvesting. The mission resulted in the implementation of a Training of Trainers methodology for rural extension workers. This had direct impact in the improvement of information sharing among local farmers.

TANZANIA

In the two technical missions to the country, in the districts of Misungwi, Kwimba and Magu, dozens of farmers participated in training on pest and disease management and production and application of natural insecticides. These methods directly result in an average 20% reduction in farmers' spending and an average 93% increase in profitability. Workshops on Brazilian good practices for seed selection and storage through building a community seed house were also held, which resulted in a guaranteed availability of seeds for new crops, cost reduction with seed acquisition, and autonomy in the production system. The adequate storage of seeds guarantees genetic and biodiversity conservation for farmers and their production systems.

In addition to these practices, planting activities were planned, which resulted in a 60% reduction in the risk of flower abortion due to water stress, impacting on the use of 100% of the rainy season and, consequently, increasing productivity.

A theoretical-practical workshop was also held to produce and manufacture low-cost handmade loom equipment, with farmers representing local communities. Building these equipments added value to the cotton fiber and improved access to new markets to sell clothing, which multiplied the value by 20 if compared to the selling price of cotton lint.

The nutrition activities, guided by Food and Nutrition Education principles, included autonomy, access to information and self-care, resulting in whole food use, waste reduction, strengthening support and social/community control of child and adult malnutrition through training for self-assessment of nutritional deficiency symptoms, and development of the ability to identify foods that mitigate these indicators.

How is the eco-friendly stove improving the lives of farmers in Tanzania?

Eco-friendly stoves have been built with locally available materials around school communities. The eco-friendly stove, in addition to being ergonomically suitable, is environmentally sustainable and able to concentrate heat. This provides a 73.43% reduction in CO2 emission for every kilo of wood burned, also reducing aspiration of fumes with contaminating gases, especially by children and women, who are responsible for cooking meals. As a result of this activity, cooking time was reduced by two hours and the amount of firewood used fell by 70%. With this simple solution, families have increased their food diversity and farmers can diversify their menus, since they can now make foods that are difficult to access in local markets, such as cakes and breads.

Training of trainers

The Beyond Cotton project partner institutes promoted several online workshops to train local technicians in topics such as:

- construction of underground dams
- plant nutritional deficiency
- fertilization and planting
- pests and diseases
- management and post-harvest (corn, beans, and cotton)
- cultivation methods (sweet potatoes, rice, and peanuts)
- grafting techniques
- productive yards
- horticulture
- production of seedlings and beds



BENIN

Three missions in the department of Donga, a cotton production area with the highest socioeconomic vulnerability in the country, included training of farmers on agroecological management and discussion and evaluation of productive designs for buying fresh food locally. In a collective farmers' field area, a demonstration zone was installed for replication and multiplication of social technologies aimed at sustainable agricultural and food cultivation practices, with special attention to soil restoration-conservation.

The area was used for an intercropping of fruit species (papaya, banana, avocado, guava, sugar-apple, coconut), grain species (beans, corn, sesame, sorghum), cassava, and sugar cane. A

demonstration area was also implemented for intercropping cotton with cassava and beans, with recommendations for agroecological management. In the last training stage, 14 kilograms of beans, 11 kilograms of yellow peas, four kilograms of soybeans, and 63 kilograms of corn were harvested.

The nutrition actions focused on a cycle of training on food quality control from field to table, improvement of the quality of meals served at school, and training on the nutritional value of meals and food groups. Participating farmers also prepared a school menu and children from the Kpandri school participated in play activities about food and nutrition security.

Food tracing

The World Food Programme (WFP) Local and regional food procurement food policy, established in 2019, seeks to boost the purchase of food produced by small farmers at the local and regional levels. The WFP Centre of Excellence, in partnership with the Regional Bureau in Panama and the Guatemala Country Office, has developed a methodology proposal to trace transactions made by smallholder farmers that supply food to WFP. The system will potentially be used in countries where local and regional food policies are being implemented. A pilot is already planned to run in Guatemala in 2024.

How important is it to track food sold to WFP?

A tracing system adapted to smallholder farming characteristics allows the establishment of minimum requirements for registering farmers, supporting the coordination of national and international institutions interested in acquiring produce for the promotion of sustainable certification and traceability.

NUTRITION



The Nurture the Future project team completed, in 2023, the Policy Brief called “Tackling the Multiple Burden of Malnutrition”, which presents guidelines to contain the increase in subnutrition, obesity, consumption of ultra-processed foods, and micronutrient deficiency in schoolchildren and their family members. The document is directed at public managers, but presents the content in an accessible way. The publication details:

- the concept of malnutrition;
- the socio-demographic and economic factors that affect proper nutrition;
- manifestations and consequences of the multiple burden of malnutrition;
- how health managers can contain this problem;
- multiple burden indicators in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru.

In addition to the document, the project also finalized a video on tackling the multiple burden of malnutrition. The roadmap was developed by the Ministry of Health and the WFP Centre of Excellence teams and will be made available in 2024.

The project team also played a strategic role in the participation of a Brazilian delegation in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The event was attended by the Centre of Excellence and the Ministry of Health in a session called “Lessons from Brazil – recovering from setbacks in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and the challenges in the road ahead”. The table was also attended by the Minister of Social Development and Fight against Hunger, the president of the National Food Security Council (CONSEA), and FAO.

The South-South Triangular Cooperation Project to tackle the Multiple Burden of Malnutrition in School-aged Children, better known as Nurture the Future, is the result of a partnership between the Ministry of Health, the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger, and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project focuses on promoting horizontal knowledge exchanges on malnutrition, especially in the fight against childhood overweight and obesity. It supports processes to strengthen national public institutions and the nutrition and health sectors, considered fundamental for managing food and nutrition policies in partner countries.

Learn more about the project:

Nurture  the Future

[Click to go to the website](#)

During the debate, the Centre of Excellence exposed the backdrop of global hunger and the relevance of investments to end it, to the detriment of investments in conflicts between nations. The Ministry of Health shared an overview of food and nutrition insecurity in the country and in Latin America, the synergistic determinants of malnutrition, and the necessary directions to fight the different expressions of malnutrition, such as access to healthy food and promotion of social protection.

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Photo: WFP/Fredrik Lerneryd

WFP
Programme
Mondial

Human Capital in Latin America and the Caribbean

The event “The Power of Multi-sectoral Approaches to Human Capital Development”, organized by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), took place between August 29th and 31st. It gathered around 200 participants from more than 20 countries, including government ministers, representatives of international financial institutions, and the United Nations.

Organized in collaboration with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil, the event aimed to create an enabling space

for countries across the region to drive multi-sectoral approaches that connect education, food security, and nutrition to human capital development, using two complementary approaches: school meals and social protection systems. In addition, two documents were launched: “State of School Feeding in Latin America and the Caribbean 2022” and “Social Protection Pathways to nutrition”.

At the end of the event, participants presented a document with proposals for the Global School Meals Coalition meeting that took place in October in Paris. [Learn more here.](#)

Technical visit: agroforestry at the University of Brasília

The Centre of Excellence team working on the Beyond Cotton Project visited the agroforestry experimental area at the Água Limpa farm, coordinated by the Agronomy Tutorial Education Programme of the University of Brasília (PET Agronomy/UnB). PET is an academic programme for undergraduate students to contribute to their education by stimulating research, teaching, and extension activities.

The visit’s objective was to get to know the agroforestry area implemented by university

students to deepen evaluations on this production model. Activities conducted in the area can serve as an example of good practices in sustainable agriculture, such as planting vegetables, tubers, medicinal plants, timber, and unconventional edible plants (PANCS). As for cotton, students have analyzed the behavior of weevils, a type of insect that harms cotton, and the influence of wasp species in ecological pest management. Students also presented on natural herbicides and shared techniques to prevent insects that harm banana trees.



Photo: WFP / Lena von Zabern

Food systems

In 2023, the WFP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama, through a task force, began to support the Brazilian government in its proposal for the Food Systems Summit and requested support from the Centre of Excellence in Brazil. Considering that Brazil has undergone significant national management changes and has instituted the Brazil Without Hunger plan, the Centre of Excellence has prepared a guiding document for the task force and WFP to support the Brazilian government in implementing its commitments to the development of sustainable food systems. This guiding document indicates which may be Brazil's main demands and potential support, such as conflicts of interest in food consumption, microinsurance for small farmers, and cash-based transfers.

The Nurture the Future project team also supported the participation of a Ministry of Health team in the Food Systems Summit +2 (FSS), which took place in Rome, Italy. The event, which shared project results with partner countries, was also an opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with representation from the Colombian Ministry of Agriculture and the Mexican delegation on future actions for food labeling and advertising in Latin America.

Food Systems Summit

The Food Systems Summit was held in 2021, an event within the Decade of

Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, which aims to address global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty, and inequality. During the Summit, a task force was created to ensure strategic and coordinated engagement from the United Nations system, with the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Participating countries defined National Pathways, which are target documents to develop strategies for more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems.

Humanitarian Cooperation

In 2023, the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil continued its successful partnership with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE) in the transfer of resources from the Brazilian government and in the development of contacts and initiatives with countries that receive Brazilian humanitarian cooperation. Throughout the year, seven partners benefited, directly or through other United Nations agencies, funds,

and programmes: Algeria, Yemen, Mali, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Syria, and Palestinian Territories. Favoring purchases in local markets, humanitarian donations consisted of personal protective equipment; actions to supply drinking water and improve sanitary conditions; food; development of school meals systems; and first-necessity items for populations affected by natural disasters.

Participation in events

Check out some highlights of the year:

- Meeting of the Parliamentary Front to Fight Hunger in the Legislative Assembly of Bahia;
- 20 years of Mesa Brasil;
- 20 years of the Food Acquisition Programme;
- Cotton Week in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- XX Latin American Nutrition Congress, of the Latin American Nutrition Society (SLAN);
- 6th Food and Nutrition Security Conference;
- XII Brazilian Agroecology Congress;
- Launch of the Pact against Hunger;
- Order of Attorneys of Brazil – São Paulo branch event on Fundamental Rights to Health and Nutrition in Early Childhood;
- 3rd National Supply Chain ESG Forum;
- Global Agribusiness Forum;
- Launch of the Movimento Todos à Mesa;
- II Seminar of Good Practices on School Feeding in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP); and others.

PARTNERSHIPS



Photo: WFP/Fredrik Lemeryd

We need collaboration to achieve zero hunger and end the food insecurity that affects the lives of more than 800 million people worldwide. For this reason, WFP works together with thousands of partners, including governments, private sector, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, researchers, non-governmental organizations, and other civil society groups.

The WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil also invests in partnerships to boost its activities to support the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2 and SDG 17.

Partnerships should contribute to shared goals and provide greater efficiency and effectiveness. This approach is articulated in the WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy and anchored in strong principles and a consistent understanding of the value of partnership.

Get to know a few of them:

Fome de Tudo Association

In 2023, the World Food Programme announced an unprecedented partnership with the Fome de Tudo Association to support school meals in Latin America and the Caribbean, developing activities in close collaboration with the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil. Fome de Tudo was born as a national movement

that presents solutions to fight hunger and food waste. The main objective of the partnership is to generate visibility and raise resources for actions to fight hunger through programmes such as school feeding in Latin America and the Caribbean. [Learn more.](#)

APEX

As result of a partnership with the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (ApexBrasil), WFP offered an online course to about 100 Brazilian companies on food procurement processes. The event aimed to expand the knowledge of Brazilian companies so that more suppliers can participate in regional and global processes for purchasing food for humanitarian aid. The program covered three major areas: global and regional food procurement statistics in 2022; the WFP food procurement process; and the requirements and process for becoming a WFP supplier.

The training also addressed food fortification, access to institutional markets (such as school feeding programmes) and the prioritization of smallholder farming in purchasing processes. In 2022 alone, WFP purchased 4.2 million metric tons of food, at a cost of USD 3.24 billion, originating from more than 100 countries. About 80% of these purchases were made up of cereals, special nutritional foods, vegetable oils, and legumes.

Cuba

In September, the WFP Centre of Excellence held technical meetings in Brasília to exchange experiences on strategies and actions for local food purchase from smallholder farming, nutrition, and food and nutrition education with a delegation from Cuba. The activities were attended by the Deputy Prime Minister of Cuba, representatives of the Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Foreign Affairs of the Cuban government, as well as officials from the World Food Programme Country Office in Cuba. The participants visited the Federal District Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Company (Emater-DF) and the Federal District Supply Centres (CEASA-DF).

ESG in the National Supply Chain

The ABRAS National Supply Chain Forum – ESG is an annual programme that brings together sector leaders, business and government authorities in a multilateral and collaborative debate on the main strategic, economic, market, institutional, and regulatory challenges of the national supply chain. The Centre of Excellence has been an active part of this debate since its inception three years ago. In June 2023, the 3rd edition of the ABRAS National Supply Chain Forum – ESG brought together 15 entities from the supermarket sector to implement the action plan prepared in the previous edition.

Bahia sem Fome

During World Food Day celebrations, which took place in Salvador in 2023, the WFP Centre of Excellence and the Bahia state government signed a Memorandum of Understanding for provision of technical support to the activities of the Bahia Sem Fome programme. The Centre of Excellence has contributed its expertise in school meals and brought the World Food Programme experience with actions to eradicate hunger at the national and international levels.

Public Prosecutor's Office (MPT)

WFP and MPT recognize that meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals requires a concerted alliance between intergovernmental organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities. WFP and MPT have joined forces and are actively collaborating to contribute effectively to the realization of the SDGs, in particular SDG 17. In addition to the event held in October 2023, both parties will discuss actions that should begin in 2024 to share Brazilian experiences and good practices through exchanges with government agencies and international organizations on food and nutrition security, education, social protection, health and nutrition, through the Centre of Excellence activities.

School Gardens

The WFP Centre of Excellence provided technical support for the publication “School gardens in the environmental, social and governance agenda of municipalities”, as result of a partnership between the Municipal Secretariat of Education Food Bank and the Department of Food and Nutrition Security of the city of Osasco/São Paulo, the Pé de Feijão Association, the NGO Prato Verde, and iFood. The manual provides support and guidance to public and private managers on:

- the relevance of school gardens and their influence on the pedagogical process;
- raising financial support;
- the role of vegetable gardens for sustainability and compliance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- guidance on implementation;
- budgetary benefits of vegetable gardens.



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COMMUNICATION



An important milestone for communication and advocacy activities in 2023 was the announcement, in October, of the designation of [Rita Lobo](#) as an official supporter of the World Food Programme to help amplify debates about proper and healthy diets, such as reducing food waste and avoiding the consumption of ultra-processed foods.

Another highlight was the World Food Day celebration in [Salvador](#), Bahia, a joint action between the WFP Centre of Excellence, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The events were supported by the Government of Bahia and the Bahia Sem Fome programme.

On social media, Instagram saw a 96% increase in the number of new followers compared to the number of new followers in 2022 and a 92% increase in reach, in the same comparison. These results are, to a large extent, linked to the close collaboration with the UN Brazil profile and other strategic partners.

LinkedIn showed a 21% increase in reach and a 10% increase in the number of new followers in the annual comparison. In addition, the This Week weekly newsletter distribution list received 96 new subscribers and content engagement (clicks) increased by an average of 25% in 2023 compared to the previous year.



Photo: WFP/Denise Colletta



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