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# South-South Quarterly Newsletter

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South-South and Triangular Cooperation  
Multilateral and Programme Country Partnerships Division  
[www.wfp.org/south-south-cooperation](http://www.wfp.org/south-south-cooperation)



# Content

## WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

The WFP Executive Board South-South and Triangular Cooperation Side Event: Nurturing Partnerships and Sharing Solutions	3
UNOSSC Launches Revamped South-South Galaxy and South-South and Triangular Cooperation Solutions Lab	3
Annual Rome-Based Agencies Celebration of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation in Brazil	4
E-training course on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Africa with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)	4

## Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

### WFP China Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China CoE)

China Shares Its Expertise in Post-Harvest Loss Reduction Through Webinars	5
China-Africa Rice Value Chain Initiative Promotes Partnerships and Innovative Financing	5
China Seminar on Climate Resilience Fosters Global Dialogue and Synergies	6
China-Cuba Online Workshops Strengthen Agriculture and Disaster Risk Management Cooperation	6

### WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil (WFP Brazil CoE)

Brazil Shares Knowledge with the Republic of Congo in Linking Smallholder Farmers to the School Feeding Programme Through the IBSA Fund	7
Nurture the Future Project Supports the Fight Against Malnutrition in Brazil, Peru and Colombia	7

### WFP Regional Centre of Excellence Based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM)

China-Africa Partnership Strengthens Rice Value Chain in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea	8
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## Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

Advancing Rural E-Commerce in Bolivia Through the Collaboration with China	9
Cuba's Disaster Risk Management Initiative with Honduras and Panama	9
Belize Visits Guatemala to Learn about the School Feeding Programme	9
Strengthening Social Protection in Guatemala	10
Dominican Republic and Cuba Strengthen Food and Nutritional Security	10
Honduras-Colombia Collaboration on Strengthening Risk Management and Social Protection	11
Dominican Republic and Peru's Collaboration Enhancing Food Supplementation Governance	11

## Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

SSTC Innovation Challenge Update: Empowering Smallholder Farmers and Women Groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo	12
Strengthening Smallholder Farmers' Resilience and Livelihoods in Kenya and Promoting Kenya's Vision for Climate-Friendly School Feeding	13
Cameroon and Ghana Collaboration Strengthening Local Food Systems and Value Chains	14

## Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

India Shares Experience in Supply Chain and Innovative Technology	15
Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Philippines	15
The Philippines and Indonesia Collaborate to Strengthen Disaster Management and Coordination	16
The Philippines Learns from the Indonesian Mobile Kitchen Solutions	16
Bangladesh and Philippines' Collaboration on Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Anticipatory Action	17

# WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

## The WFP Executive Board South-South and Triangular Cooperation Side Event: Nurturing Partnerships and Sharing Solutions

In June, during the Annual Session of the EB, WFP hosted a South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Side Event under the theme "South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Nurturing Partnerships and Sharing Solutions." The event marked one year after the approval of the [SSTC Policy Update](#).

EB members joined the event held in WFP HQ to discuss SSTC as a mechanism for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 17 and consider WFP's role in supporting governments to achieve their development objectives.

Government representatives from Guinea, Brazil and China participated in a panel discussion and showcased SSTC initiatives that are being implemented in their countries to advance food security and nutrition national agendas.

23 member states joined the discussion.

In her opening remarks, Ms Cindy McCain, WFP Executive Director, highlighted the role of SSTC in fostering collective knowledge in agricultural and food systems to contribute to Zero Hunger.

Mr. Stanlake Samkange, Director, MPC, reflected on WFP's journey in SSTC which began in 2015 with the adoption of the first SSTC policy.

He emphasized the pivotal role of the WFP Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Brazil and China in capturing and sharing their lessons and experiences, particularly in advancing food security and supporting governments to implement national school feeding programmes.

## UNOSSC Launches Revamped South-South Galaxy and South-South and Triangular Cooperation Solutions Lab

In July, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) launched its flagship [Galaxy platform](#) as well as the SSTC [Solutions Lab](#).

The platform was recently revamped through a collaborative effort with the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Chief Digital Office.

The WFP SSTC Unit joined the event highlighting the lab's relevance to WFP's SSTC work and reflected on how WFP can contribute and benefit from it.

UNOSSC's SSTC Solutions Lab aims to become a global platform for incubating and testing innovative and evidence-based solutions for SSTC, as well as a global partnership for accelerating such cooperation.

The Solutions Lab is in line with the WFP corporate strategic framework and SSTC strategic focus areas as outlined in the SSTC Policy Update.

He also highlighted the expansion of WFP's SSTC efforts with the establishment of the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM) in 2016, aimed at facilitating knowledge-sharing from African countries.

Looking ahead, SSTC is expected to play a key role in the Group of Twenty (G20) agenda under Brazil's presidency and the Global Alliance against Poverty and Hunger, offering opportunities for knowledge exchange between the Global South and North.

The discussions, moderated by Mr. George Fominyen, Deputy Director, Communications and Media Office, provided an opportunity for India, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, South Sudan and Chile to highlight their messages.

They sought more investment in SSTC, more collaboration and sharing of knowledge both from the Global South and the Northern countries.

The messages from this session will inform WFP's strategic way forward in SSTC.



It is also aligned with [WFP's strategic plan](#) that emphasizes innovation to address food insecurity and malnutrition.

The lab is founded on a solid partnership between UNOSSC and its first cohort of partners – WFP, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Gulf Organization for Research and Development, and Masdar City.

For WFP, the collaboration with UNOSSC represents a concrete effort towards a more integrated and coherent knowledge management ecosystem for SSTC across the UN system.

It also ensures Member States have easy access to the relevant information to support their efforts in achieving Zero Hunger.

# WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

## Annual Rome-Based Agencies Celebration of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation in Brazil

On 10 September, the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) of the United Nations—the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and WFP jointly celebrated the [UN Day for South-South Cooperation](#).

The event was hosted by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and held in Brasília, Brazil.

The event, organized under the theme “Global partners, local actions: Strengthening nutrition and food security through Trilateral South-South Cooperation,” reaffirmed the collaboration between the UN agencies and the Brazilian Government.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of the Brazil-RBA Joint Programme on School Feeding and Family Farming.

This initiative draws on Brazil's expertise to support countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean (LAC) in enhancing their food and nutritional security through innovative country-led school feeding and family farming programmes.

The initiative is in line with Brazil's leadership in the G20 and its [Global Alliance against Poverty and Hunger](#).

This 3-year pilot programme will be part of the Alliance's “sprints” initiative in priority areas such as school feeding and family farming.

## E-training Course on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Africa with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

In March, the WFP SSTC Unit in HQ joined a high-level capacity building training programme, “[South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Accelerating the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and SDGs](#).”

The programme is developed by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD), based at the University of South Africa (UNISA) and other partners.

The APRM was adopted by African Heads of State and governments as a systematic peer learning and self-assessment mechanism in 2002.

In the opening remarks, Mr. Liu, previous Chief of the SSTC Unit at HQ, highlighted the significance of SSTC in enhancing WFP's programmes and emphasized the importance of leveraging SSTC to promote existing practices of countries from the Global South.

The training provided the background of SSTC in Africa and its contribution to achieving both the AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 to a wide range of experts. Experts included national representatives, youth, Civil Society Organizations and academia alongside practitioners in development organizations across Africa.

It aims to showcase the potential of the Global Alliance's impact in accelerating country-led progress on SDG 1 and 2.

This joint programme will initially target Kenya and Guatemala building on the demand from these countries to engage in SSTC, with activities including technical visits, trainings, policy support and knowledge exchanges.

The programme's final evaluation of this pilot phase will be instrumental in scaling up this initiative to other countries.

The collaboration between Brazil and the RBA serves as a powerful example of how SSTC can create synergies that benefit both education and local agriculture, ultimately strengthening national capacities and driving sustainable development across the Global South.

Read more details of the event [here](#).



More than 120 participants, diplomats, AU experts and representatives of international organizations as well as IFIs attended the introductory session to discuss how to promote SSTC.

This training is aligned with the decision of the 28th AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government which expanded the mandate of the mechanism to support African countries in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 2063 and SDGs.

Key takeaways from the training include:

- The importance of expanding knowledge about the benefits of multilateralism; horizontal partnerships and eco-system of SSTC;
- The necessity of understanding the challenges associated with implementing the BAPA+40 outcome documents;
- The need to strengthen discussions and development of Monitoring and Evaluation systems and frameworks to assess SSTC efforts in Africa; and
- The value of further promoting peer-learning to support the institutionalization of SSTC mechanisms across African countries.



# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

## WFP China Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China CoE)

### China Shares Its Expertise in Post-Harvest Loss Reduction Through Webinars

From 27th August to 26th September, China's National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration (NAFRA) and the Academy of NAFRA jointly with the WFP China CoE organised a series of webinars on post-harvest loss reduction.

The initiative sought to share China's experience, technology and practices to enhance the capacity of governments in reducing post-harvest loss.

The five-week webinar series was structured into two modules comprising 10 sessions.

Topics included grain reserves and post-harvest systems, grain storage management and grain post-harvest handling technologies and equipment.

During the launch webinar, Mr. Zhao Bing, WFP China Representative, highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing and SSTC in global post-harvest loss reduction.

A total of 295 participants from various government departments, specialized agencies, research institutions, private sectors, NGOs and local associations participated in the launch webinar.

### China-Africa Rice Value Chain Initiative Promotes Partnerships and Innovative Financing

In July, China's Department of International Cooperation of NAFRA jointly with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNOSSC and WFP China CoE organised the fourth China-Africa Rice Value Chain Seminar in Chengdu, Sichuan Province in China.

The seminar was themed "From Paddy to Prosperity: Inclusive Partnerships and Innovative Financing for China-Africa Rice Value Chain Cooperation." and was the fourth in the series of seminar.

It aimed to foster inclusive partnerships for innovative financing to boost investment in rice value chain development, with a particular emphasis on an enabling policy environment and sustainable development.

Over 150 people from over 12 countries from China and Africa representing government, development agencies, financial institutions, private sectors, and civil societies joined the discussions.

The participants joined technical visits to the research institute to discuss post-harvest loss management (PHLM), farmer cooperatives, rice processing and storage facilities.

The event provided a platform to facilitate dialogue and forge partnerships for SSTC on rice value chain development, to further support smallholder farmers in Africa.

WFP RBx and COs from 49 African and Asian countries also joined.

The webinars further strengthened the cooperation between WFP China CoE, RBx and COs on providing targeted support in capacity building and resilience improvement for more developing countries.

The continued collaboration between the participating countries and China will be enhanced to explore further SSTC opportunities, focusing on sustainable agricultural practices and post-harvest loss reduction.



Looking forward, more knowledge, investments and public-private partnerships will be leveraged to support African countries to advance their rice productivity, quality, processing, marketing, and distribution.

Extensive consultations with the WFP Regional Bureau for Western Africa (RBD) and Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBJ) will be conducted to leverage the experience and expertise from China and bridge the policy dialogue gap for rice value chain development.



# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

## WFP China Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China CoE)

### China Seminar on Climate Resilience Fosters Global Dialogue and Synergies

In May, Zhangjiakou Academy of Agricultural Sciences and WFP China CoE co-organised a seminar titled "From Vision to Action Crafting Sustainable Climate Policies for Impact" in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province in China.

The seminar showcased China and WFP's joint efforts in addressing food insecurity posed by climate change, with a focus on policy design and case studies.

By fostering policy and technical dialogue, the event aimed to foster knowledge exchange on national strategies, crop resilience and new energy applications.

The seminar focused on identifying best practices in national policy on climate resilience building, drought-resilient crops, and solar solutions from China, WFP and public and private sectors.

These efforts are directed to better support developing countries in achieving food security.

Approximately 150 participants from 30 countries attended the seminar in-person and online, including representatives from the National Centre for Climate Change Strategy, and Intel Coop of P.R. China (NCSC), NAFRA.

Counsellors and Secretaries from the Embassies of Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Gambia as well as WFP HQ, RBD, WFP Armenia and Senegal COs attended the event.

Looking forward, it will be essential to engage in further consultation with RBD on how to harness China's expertise and resources in the Green Great Wall initiative.

China's advancements in resilient crops, such as millet and Juncao, and value chain management, can be leveraged to benefit local communities.

Additionally, greater efforts should be made to promote solar energy solutions as an efficient and sustainable option for communities in off-grid areas, helping them unlock the potential of renewable energy sources.



### China-Cuba Online Workshops Strengthen Agriculture and Disaster Risk Management Cooperation

In April, the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Civil Defence General Staff, and the National Response to Disasters, Vulnerabilities and Risks Team joined two online thematic workshops with China.

The workshops focused on agricultural development and disaster risk reduction strategies and were co-organised by the Ministry of Emergency Management of China, WFP China CoE and WFP Cuba CO.

They aimed to strengthen cooperation on agricultural projects and explore disaster risk reduction strategies for addressing extreme hydrometeorological events.

Representatives of the Department of Fire Monitoring, and the Meteorological Centre, the Academy of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control of China engaged in discussions with their Cuban counterparts.

They deepened their collaborations under the SSTC framework working towards enhancing the resilience of Cuba's food system.

These efforts align with the shared goal of achieving zero hunger by strengthening agricultural cooperation and improving disaster preparedness.

As some next steps, WFP China CoE will continue to leverage Chinese expertise in agricultural development and disaster risk reduction to further enhance agricultural resilience and disaster risk management capacities in Cuba.





# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

## WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil (WFP Brazil CoE)

### Brazil Shares Knowledge with the Republic of Congo in Linking Smallholder Farmers to the School Feeding Programme Through the IBSA Fund

In August, ABC, the National Fund for the Development of Education (FNDE), and the Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA) attended a technical workshop on smallholder farming.

It was organized in partnership with the WFP Brazil CoE and WFP Republic of Congo CO.

This workshop is part of the "[Enhancing Family Farmers access to local markets in the Republic of Congo through South-South Cooperation](#)" or "Seeds for Tomorrow" project.

Launched in June 2023, the project, is a joint effort of the Government of the Republic of Congo, the Government of Brazil, the WFP Republic of Congo CO and the WFP Brazil CoE.

The project is being implemented with the support of the [India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation \(IBSA\) Fund](#).

The first technical workshop aimed to foster knowledge exchange on smallholder farming, food security and public policies.

Brazil showcased its experience in promoting smallholder farming and administering public programmes to enhance livelihoods in the country.

### Nurture the Future Project Supports the Fight Against Malnutrition in Brazil, Peru and Colombia

In September, ABC, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil as well as the Ministries of Health of Colombia and Peru presented the results of the first stage of the [Nurture the Future Project](#).

The result were showcased during the 6th National Research Meeting on Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security (6th ENPSSAN) at the State University of Rio de Janeiro.

During the event, WFP Brazil CoE, the Brazilian Ministry of Health and ABC launched the publication "[Tackling the Multiple Burden of Malnutrition](#)" and presented results, challenges and perspectives on food and nutrition actions in Brazil, Peru and Colombia.

The first phase of the SSTC project is a partnership between the Governments of the three countries as well as WFP Brazil CoE.

The project deliverables include [two](#) documents with recommendations on [obesity](#), one on [malnutrition](#) and three [videos](#) covering these topics.

These products were disseminated at national and international events promoting food and nutrition programmes.

The workshop came as an important step in of the project promoting the adaptation of the Brazilian family farming polices to the local context in Congo to improve smallholder access to local markets and sustainable agriculture.

A total of three online technical workshops are planned for this year. The next workshop is scheduled for 27 November.

These workshops will foster exchanges between the two governments on the school feeding programme, local agricultural production, access to markets such as schools and programme monitoring.

Follow the project's updates on [WFP Brazil CoE's Instagram](#) and read more about the project [here](#).



The event created a platform to discuss the development and implementation of food guides, the front labelling of food products and strategies to combat childhood obesity to improve food and nutrition policies in the countries involved.

Following the event countries such as Uruguay, Argentina, Mexico and Chile showed their interest in joining a new phase of the project.

As the next steps, building on the results of the first phase, partners will explore options for enhancing food and nutrition policies and expanding the geographical coverage of the next phase of the project.



# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

## WFP Regional Centre of Excellence Based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM)

### China-Africa Partnership Strengthens Rice Value Chain in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea

In August, Côte d'Ivoire participated in a handover ceremony of innovative agricultural equipment as part of the [China-Africa Rice Value Chain Initiative](#) funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and led by the WFP China CoE.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Côte d'Ivoire (MINADER), the Agency for the Development of the Rice Sector (ADERIZ), and the National Rural Development Support Agency in Côte d'Ivoire (ANADER), the Chinese Agricultural Technical Assistance Mission (MATAC) and local rice producers attended the ceremony.

The ceremony highlighted the progress made as part of the SSTC project aimed at strengthening the rice value chain in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

The equipment was provided to rice cooperatives and farmer groups from the Boundiali and Korhogo regions in northern Côte d'Ivoire to support local farmers in improved rice production.

This event was organized by the WFP Office in Côte d'Ivoire, in collaboration with CERFAM and WFP China CoE and the project is implemented by the Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea COs, in collaboration with WFP China CoE and CERFAM.

To improve the livelihoods and incomes of rice producers by enhancing their production capacities, a series of activities have been organized:

- A regional seminar on the development of the rice value chain in West Africa that brought together nearly 60 experts from countries in West, Central and East Africa, as well as China;
- The delivery of a range of modern equipment from China, including mini silos, a milling machine and more;
- Two study tours in China, conducted in June 2023 and September 2024, aimed at enhancing the capacity of smallholder farmers and key stakeholders in the rice sector from Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire; and
- Training sessions for producers on good agricultural practices and the use of equipment, delivered by Chinese rice experts from MATAC. Over 1,200 rice value chain actors from seven villages were trained in threshing, drying, and storing rice using modern techniques.

The SSTC project is in line with the AU's Agenda 2063 improving the rice value chain in Africa by introducing innovative and sustainable solutions to increase agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and empower women in the sector.

Looking forward, the project aims to improve storage infrastructure by building warehouses, distributing mini silos (with a capacity of 600-1000 kg each), and setting up a production unit for these silos.



Photo: WFP/ CERFAM



# Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

## Advancing Rural E-Commerce in Bolivia Through the Collaboration with China

In February, the Bolivian Space Agency of the Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing and a local NGO [Manq'a Sostenible](#) with the support of the WFP Regional Office in Panama (RBP) and WFP China CoE conducted a webinar focusing on rural e-commerce development.

The webinar is part of the "Gender-inclusive smallholder value chain development in two indigenous communities affected by COVID-19" project supported by MARA.

It aims to enhance the productive capacity and market access of Guaraní artisans, generating sustainable income and improving food security by providing lessons learned from rural e-commerce in China.

A total of 68 women and 5 men participated in the training.

The Bolivian Space Agency installed internet services at the training site and Manq'a Sostenible conducted production and marketing trainings.

## Cuba's Disaster Risk Management Initiative with Honduras and Panama

In March, representatives from the Financial Group Caudal and the Insurance Superintendent from Cuba engaged in an in-person exchange with the Governments of Honduras and Panama.

The exchanges aimed at sharing experience of Honduras and Panama with the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF).

The exchange focused on sharing knowledge and insights on macro-level insurance aiming to facilitate the development of a well-informed proposal for the macro insurance approach.

The initiative is a collaborative effort of Cuba's Ministry of Finance and Prices and the Caudal Group supporting the country's efforts at disaster risk management.

Following the exchange, the proposal was positively received by the Government of Cuba.

## Belize Visits Guatemala to Learn about the School Feeding Programme

In May, the Governments of Belize and Guatemala engaged in a bilateral exchange facilitated by WFP.

The Ministry of Education of Belize sought to learn about Guatemala's expertise in managing decentralized school feeding programmes as it is currently scaling up its own national school feeding programme.

During this exchange, the Government of Guatemala with the support of WFP presented their model, which has proven successful in reaching students across the country while connecting local farmers with schools and enhancing communities' nutrition and wellbeing.

The Government of Belize will continue exploring potential mechanisms to adapt and implement the school feeding model shared by Guatemala.

As a result of the initiative, the indigenous Guaraní communities have seen an improvement in their financial revenue and market access.

The SSTC project showcases that innovative approaches involving technology can effectively support indigenous peoples by enhancing their productivity and market access, along with their financial and social resilience.

The project has the potential to strengthen efforts to close the digital divide and promote digital literacy among artisanal workers via knowledge sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

The project also aims to amplify the visibility for local artisans' products by utilizing campaigns and promotions on social media.

The Karandai brand which produces palm-made handicrafts, is just one example of increasing market access for local artisans.

As next steps, WFP Cuba CO is planning an in-country workshop aimed at training government staff on macro insurance products and models scheduled for October/November 2024.

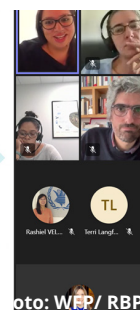
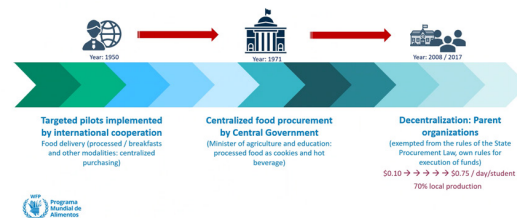
Additionally, the Government of Cuba will formally engage with CARICOM to initiate the official process to establish a CCRIF insurance model in Cuba.



Both countries will continue collaboration and share progress and best practices to support the scaling up of Belize's school feeding programme.

This collaboration will promote sustainability, socio-economic integration, and increased reach and coverage.

### SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM – PROCESS



# Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

## Strengthening Social Protection in Guatemala

In April and July, the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) of Guatemala attended a technical meeting organized by RBP.

RBP provided critical technical and operational support to enhance the effectiveness of the [Bono Social](#) and [Bolsa Social](#) conditional cash transfer programmes.

The initiative is a part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen Guatemala's national social protection programmes.

This partnership has facilitated the exchange of best practices and sharing of experiences between Guatemala and countries in the region, such as Honduras, Dominican Republic and Brazil, leveraging SSTC to improve social protection systems.

The Government of Guatemala is already contributing to regional dialogues on poverty reduction and social equity, while benefiting from the experiences of other countries facing similar challenges.

Key outcomes of this collaboration include the increased flexibility of the Bolsa Social programme, allowing beneficiaries more autonomy in their use of transfer funds.

Additionally, the verification process for programme eligibility has been simplified, reducing the administrative burden on both beneficiaries and government officials.

Efforts have also focused on enhancing gender and cultural sensitivity, ensuring that indigenous populations and women are more adequately supported.

The collaboration with MIDES underscores the potential of SSTC in creating scalable, impactful solutions for social protection ensuring that vulnerable populations across the region receive comprehensive support.

The Bolsa Social programme will be expanded to reach more rural areas.

Operational manuals will be updated to reflect gender and cultural inclusions, while adaptive social protection mechanisms will be strengthened to improve the programme's response to emergencies such as natural disasters and economic shocks.



## Dominican Republic and Cuba Strengthen Food and Nutritional Security

In August, the Governments of the Dominican Republic and Cuba joined an in-person study visit facilitated by WFP.

The exchange aimed at strengthening food and nutritional security through the sharing of experiences in early childhood feeding, nutrition within social protection systems, partnerships and disaster risk reduction strategies.

The Dominican Republic shared its experience in its institutional food preparation model, highlighting the role of local suppliers and initiatives such as fortified rice and a national micronutrient survey.

The National Institute of Student Welfare (INABIE) and the National Institute for Comprehensive Early Childhood Care (INAIPI) of the Dominican Republic showcased their efforts to improve school menus as well as school food surveillance system and monitoring of young children's nutrition.

Cuba presented its own school feeding model focusing on linkages between local cooperatives and social protection programmes enhancing local production.

Field visits to INAIPI facilities provided hands-on insights, while both countries discussed their respective approaches to nutrition and school feeding programmes.

The Dominican Republic also highlighted the Social Supply Network managed by the Social Subsidy Administrator (ADESS) and public-private partnerships.

Cuba explored opportunities for digitalization and innovative distribution and transfer methods.

Disaster risk management was another key topic. The Dominican Republic presented its [Anticipatory Action Data Management](#) (ADAM) tool for climate forecasting and anticipatory actions, while Cuba shared its disaster preparedness roadmap.

Both countries identified areas for continued collaboration, with plans for Dominican institutions to visit Cuba to further explore programmes and facilities, strengthening ties and collaboration in food security and disaster resilience.





# Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

## Honduras-Colombia Collaboration on Strengthening Risk Management and Social Protection

In May, the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) of Honduras through its Solidarity Network programme conducted the “Honduras-Colombia South-South Exchange Mission on Disaster Risk Management and Social Protection” in Bogotá, Colombia.

The mission was organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and supported by WFP Honduras CO.

The primary objective of the mission was to exchange best practices and insights into integrating Disaster Risk Management (DRM) with social protection systems, particularly in the Sula Valley and across Honduras.

The initiative sought to broaden the strategic vision of Honduran institutions involved in disaster response, improving coordination and preparedness for risk situations.

During the mission, WFP used the opportunity to engage with government counterparts and showcase its relevant programmes and projects.

The Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO), the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL), the Secretariat of Infrastructure and Transportation, the Secretariat of Finance, the Association of Municipalities of Honduras and the mayors of Villanueva and Potrerillos of Honduras joined the mission.

The delegation engaged in a series of visits and workshops in Bogotá and Cundinamarca, including meetings with the United Nations Disaster Risk Management (UNDRM) team, the Adaptation Fund, and other key actors.

## Dominican Republic and Peru’s Collaboration Enhancing Food Supplementation Governance

In June and July, the Governments of Peru and the Dominican Republic engaged in a SSTC initiative focusing on the “Design and Mechanisms for the Governance of Food Complementation, Contributing to Food Security”.

The initiative, led by Peru’s Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS) and facilitated by WFP, aimed to exchange experiences on food supplementation<sup>1</sup> programmes between the two countries.

The initiative was conducted in two phases. The first phase, an in-person exchange held in June in Peru, featured insights from the Dominican Republic’s Supérate social subsidy programme.

The second phase, a virtual exchange in July, involved representatives from the Dominican Republic’s State Economic Dining Rooms Programme and the Single System of Beneficiaries.

The mission concluded with the First International Flood Forum and the Adaptation Forum.

The exchange provided Honduras with a valuable opportunity to learn from Colombia’s experience in integrating DRM with social protection systems.

This SSTC exchange reaffirms the commitment between Honduras and Colombia to strengthen their cooperation in DRM and social protection systems, enhancing resilience and coordinated responses to future crises.

Moving forward, SEDESOL, COPECO and WFP, can leverage knowledge exchanges to strengthen capacities. The aim would be to develop and implement integrated Emergency Social Protection Response (PSRE) protocols, tailored to the country’s needs, to better prepare for future disasters.



Photo: Honduras SEDESOL

The collaboration between the Dominican Republic and Peru on food supplementation governance highlighted the importance of sharing best practices and experiences in addressing food security.

The initiative demonstrated that SSTC can effectively enhance governance mechanisms, enabling both countries to better serve vulnerable populations through improved food supplementation programmes.

By fostering SSTC exchanges with other LAC countries, Peru seeks to strengthen its governance mechanisms and improve its ability to meet the food security needs of vulnerable populations.

Looking forward Peru and the Dominican Republic will enhance their collaboration with regional partners to further enhance food supplementation governance processes.

<sup>1</sup> Food supplements are concentrated sources of nutrients (i.e. mineral and vitamins) or other substances with a nutritional or physiological effect that are marketed in “dose” form (e.g. pills, tablets, capsules, liquids in measured doses). A wide range of nutrients and other ingredients might be present in food supplements, including, but not limited to, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, essential fatty acids, fibre and various plants and herbal extracts.

# Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

## SSTC Innovation Challenge Update: Empowering Smallholder Farmers and Women Groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In April, the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Benin, in collaboration with WFP, organized a joint mission in Benin.

As part of the Equipment Support Project for School Canteens, the mission enabled the DRC delegation to learn from Benin's model of supporting women's groups in developing Income Generating Activities (IGA) to strengthen local school canteens.

This initiative is part of the ongoing effort to scale up sustainable school feeding and empower women farmers under the [Nourishing Futures: Empowering Women and Building Resilient Communities through School Meals project](#), one of the winners of the [2023 SSTC Innovation Challenge](#).

The Government of DRC aimed to:

1. Gain insights from the local value chain actors about the cassava production and processing into gari;
2. Replicate the approach in DRC, promoting women's empowerment and improving the quality and quantity of agricultural products for school feeding programmes; and
3. Document good practices.

The delegation conducted discussions with the Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education (MEMPE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (MAEP), the National Agency for School Feeding (ANAN) of Benin and NGOs.

These emphasized that supporting small-scale farmers with access to local markets and building a strong community of actors are crucial for the sustainability of the programme.

They also highlighted that providing equipment, improving the quality and quantity of agricultural products and involving the private sector contribute to the success of the programme.

In a follow-up initiative, in May and July, two training missions were conducted in Tshopo Province, DRC.

They were organized by the Ministries of Agriculture and National Education of DRC, the National Rural Women's Network (RENAFER).

The Association of Farmers and Breeders for the Transformation and Modernization of Agriculture in Congo (APETAMACO) and World Vision, in collaboration with WFP also supported the missions.

The trainings aimed to provide the Ignye school children parents' association with cassava processing equipment while promoting the economic empowerment of women and community resilience through IGA.

The trainings focused on:

1. Installing cassava processing equipment and processing cassava into gari and Chikwangue;
2. Introducing cassava product (e.g., gari, Chikwangue, donuts and biscuits) to Nsele commune;
3. Establishing links between farmers and schools.

The trainings gathered 50 participants, including 38 women, 10 men and 2 local social workers of the Rapid Rural Transformation (RRT) kit site.

Key takeaways of the trainings:

- The skills of women's groups in cassava processing and income management significantly improved, with new approaches introduced for supplying school canteens with locally produced foods (e.g., gari and Chikwangue);
- Community involvement and awareness were strengthened, fostering motivation to continue these activities in the 2024-2025 school year; and
- The mission highlighted the need for improved post-harvest management, construction of a hangar for equipment storage, continuous financial analysis and boosting visibility of these activities.

Currently, a 3-week mission is ongoing, focusing on raising awareness and fostering collaboration with local communities and sub-governmental authorities.

It aims to demonstrate how community involvement and local administration can drive rapid rural transformation through economic empowerment and enhanced community resilience.

As a next step, the DRC will share its experiences with other regions in the country, focusing on enriched Chikwangue, mobilizing financial resources and post-harvest loss mitigation.



Photo: WFP/ Pierrette Tshisompola



# Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

## Strengthening Smallholder Farmers' Resilience and Livelihoods in Kenya and Promoting Kenya's Vision for Climate-Friendly School Feeding

In June, the Government of Kenya, the Confucius Centre and Egerton University, in collaboration with WFP Kenya, participated in an integrated mission to explore the Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) value chain in Kenya's Arid- and Semi-Arid Lands.

This initiative aimed to leverage the technical expertise of Chinese experts on OFSP production, handling and processing, as well as to foster collaboration on various value chains such as rice and cassava.

The mission was part of an ongoing SSTC project supported by MARA to integrate the OFSP value chain into Kenya's expanding school feeding programme.

Participants from the Ministry of Education and County Departments of Agriculture engaged with the smallholder farmers and schools' management procuring OFSP to unpack the opportunities available in the value chain (e.g., value addition and market access).

The Confucius Centre lecturers expressed their commitment to support the design and fabrication of appropriate handheld tools and conduct an analysis of pricing and return on investment on OFSP processed flour and puree.

The following opportunities were identified during the mission:

1. Conduct a study to measure the impact of climate-smart agriculture on yields and pricing,
2. Collaborate with the University Nutrition Department to design nutritious and locally sourced menus to reduce dependency on imported staples, and
3. Evaluate drought-tolerant crops for cost-effective school feeding solutions.

Following the initiative, in September, WFP Kenya CO facilitated a peer learning exchange between Tana River, Migori and Tharaka Nithi counties.

The visit brought together county representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Nutrition, and Health, alongside partners such as the International Potato Center and the Cereal Growers Association and WFP's School Feeding, FtMA, Climate Resilience Food Systems, Nutrition, and Field Technical teams.

The exchange aimed to enhance food security and nutrition through the promotion of OFSP in schools and communities with specific goals to:

- Explore the details of the cultivation and integration of OFSP in schools, improving both dietary quality and agricultural practices,
- Visit the Getonganya Processing plant to study the OFSP processing plant model, market expansion opportunities and increase the economic benefits of OFSP farming,
- Assess the collaboration between the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) in promoting OFSP production and consumption, ensuring alignment in combating malnutrition and supporting smallholder farmers.

The initiatives reflect the Government of Kenya's commitment made during the 2023 Africa Climate Summit to adopt a vision for climate-friendly school feeding, as part of their scale-up strategy to reach 10 million children by 2030.

One key opportunity identified by the Government of Kenya, with support from China and WFP, is linking the OFSP to Kenya's Home-Grown School Feeding Programme.

The successful experience to promote the uptake of OFSP in schools, leveraging South-South technical support, will be highlighted as an innovative initiative under Kenya's Climate-Friendly School Feeding Approach.

This will be featured during the launch of Kenya's Scale-up Strategy scheduled for 8th October 2024 in Nairobi, ahead of the Ministerial Meeting of the School Meals Coalition on 29th October.



Photo: WFP/ Dennis Matendechere

# Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

## Cameroon and Ghana Collaboration Strengthening Local Food Systems and Value Chains

In June, the Governments of Cameroon and Ghana, in collaboration with WFP, organized a study visit aimed at enhancing local food systems and value chains.

The Cameroonian delegation sought to learn from Ghanaian experience in sustainable production, local sourcing of fortified nutritious foods and reducing food insecurity.

The initiative is part of the Cameroon Food Optimization Resilience and Technology (CAMFORT) project, a partnership between the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and WFP.

During the mission, participants visited food production and transformation facilities and engaged with key institutions, including Ghana's Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and focal points for the national the School Feeding Programme.

The main objective was to understand how Ghana's social protection, nutrition, and agricultural transformation models could be adapted to address Cameroonian needs.

Key takeaways included the importance of improving post-harvest management, food transformation processes, inclusive workforce policies and digital platforms to monitor supply chains and boost productivity.

Participants recognized the need for interagency collaboration and policy reform to better support smallholder farmers and enhance the agricultural sector competitiveness.

The mission emphasized private sector engagement and digitalization to enhance food production and market systems.

Next steps include Cameroon adopting a multi-sectoral approach to food system transformation and leveraging lessons from Ghana to integrate social protection and nutrition initiatives.

The mission also laid the foundation for future SSTC initiatives aimed at deepening agricultural and food security collaboration between the two countries.

A joint work plan is also being developed to promote sustainable practices, including the production of locally fortified foods.



Photo: WFP/ Dawda Samba



# Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

## India Shares Experience in Supply Chain and Innovative Technology

In June, a delegation composed of heads of supply chain from the WFP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBB) as well as Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia COs visited India to learn from the country's reforms in food based social protection system and national food supply chains.

The study visit focused on learning insights of India's Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) that provides free food grains to over 800 million people, making it the world's largest food-based social safety net.

WFP India CO is providing technical assistance to the Government to make TPDS more efficient and effective through innovations such as supply chain optimization, digitalization, and IoT-enabled SMART warehouses.

The delegation conducted field visits and engaged in discussions with various stakeholders, including the Indian Ministry of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, and more.

Key site visits included procurement centres, distribution sites, and pilot initiatives in multiple states in India.

The delegation also visited a Food Corporation facility in Delhi, where WFP supported the setup of a pilot SMART warehouse to reduce storage losses.

To further facilitate mutual internal learning, the delegation explored potential partnerships with the Public Systems Lab (PSL) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.

This lab, established jointly by WFP India CO and IIT, is dedicated to developing technological solutions for public system challenges and can support in developing tailored solutions in food systems across Asia and the Pacific.

The visit highlighted the importance of strong partnership with the Government that promotes local ownership to ensure the successful implementation of reforms in the TPDS.

Moving forward, the visit identified promising opportunities for partnerships to leverage India's innovations in tackling food supply chain challenges in other countries by tapping into SSTC.

See more details [here](#).

Photo: Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Department, Odisha



## Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Philippines

In June, Philippine Government officials joined a learning exchange visit to the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Malaysia supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and WFP.

The National Disaster Management Agency of Malaysia, Mercy Malaysia and HELP Logistics facilitated the visit.

The aim of the visit was to support the Philippines to discuss best practices and innovative solutions for humanitarian supply chain and logistics management from Malaysia.

The Government of the Philippines and WFP have a strong partnership in humanitarian supply chain and logistics management.

They have been working together to enhance this area of work through the Preparedness and Response Excellence in the Philippines (PREP) initiative.

This learning visit contributed to the support from WFP to the Philippines and provided a firsthand experience of the UNHRD in Malaysia for the participants.

During this visit, participants gained valuable insights into managing and mobilizing humanitarian assets more effectively, discovered efficient asset and information management systems.

They also learned best practices in humanitarian supply chain management training, and explored innovative warehouse designs for Disaster Resource Centres.

The visit fostered stronger collaboration between the Philippines and Malaysia by leveraging SSTC.

This initiative marks a vital step in enhancing the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) capacity of the Philippines.

# Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

## The Philippines and Indonesia Collaborate to Strengthen Disaster Management and Coordination

In April, a delegation from the Philippines participated in a study visit to Indonesia to learn about innovative EPR solutions to improve food security during emergencies, facilitated by WFP.

Officials from the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) visited the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The visit aimed to strengthen disaster management and coordination efforts in the Philippines by learning from the ASEAN regional disaster response framework.

During the visit, the Philippine officials learned about the AHA Centre's innovative hazard mapping and forecasting technology, as well as strategies for disaster monitoring, reporting and coordination.

The visit provided a platform for DSWD officials to gain insights into the AHA Centre's strategic and operational coordination mechanisms.

Understanding the broader regional disaster coordination structure and policy is critical for Member States to synchronize humanitarian assistance efforts and improve their disaster response operations through the AHA Centre.

Next steps involve applying the lessons learned from the AHA Centre to strengthen the Philippines' disaster management systems.

The participants will also explore further collaborations with ASEAN Member States for more efficient emergency response coordination at the regional level.



## The Philippines Learns from the Indonesian Mobile Kitchen Solutions

In April, the Philippine Government officials visited Jakarta on a study visit facilitated by WFP.

The delegation sought to learn from the Indonesian mobile kitchen solutions that provide hot nutritious meals to affected communities.

The delegation visited the Provincial Social Affairs Office in Bandung, West Java, one of the provinces most at risk of climate hazards.

Local officials shared their experience in utilizing mobile kitchens during emergencies focusing on recommendations for technical design, food safety and quality, deployment strategies and training interventions.

The officials also visited the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Disaster Management Agency.

They sought to learn about strategies and policies for deploying mobile food kitchens as well as integrating these kitchens into the broader EPR system of the Indonesian Government.

The learnings from the visit will influence the design of the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development's mobile food kitchen as well as the development of associated policy and training curricula.





# Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

## Bangladesh and Philippines' Collaboration on Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Anticipatory Action

In February, the Government of Bangladesh engaged in a five-day study visit to the Philippines organized by WFP to learn about the institutionalization of Anticipatory Action (AA) and the development of adaptive and shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) programmes.

This visit aimed to foster further improvements to the national adaptive and shock-responsive social security programmes.

These efforts are in line with the second phase of the Bangladesh Government's National Social Security Strategy and [WFP Bangladesh's Country Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#).

The Bangladesh delegation conducted consultations with key Philippine Government agencies in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Manila.<sup>1</sup>

In Manila, the delegation engaged in discussions with the Office of Civil Defence on integrating AA approaches into policy and regulatory frameworks.

They learned about AA initiatives in the Philippines, including:

- Development of the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Bill that will allow access to government funds for early mitigation measures before an emergency strikes, and
- Multi-Hazard Impact-based Forecasting and Early Warning System Project that provides accessible and timely early warning information in far-flung communities.

They also visited the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Operations Centre.

There they had a chance to exchange best practices for successful risk-informed early warning dissemination with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration.

Additionally, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) showcased the family food packs.

These were developed together with the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, National Nutrition Council, and WFP, to address families' nutrition needs during disasters.<sup>2</sup>

During the visit to Mindanao, the Bangladeshi delegation learned about the Building on Social Protection for AA and Response in Emergencies and Disasters (B-SPARED) Project.

The initiative aims to strengthen resilience through effective response to natural hazards, and the Bangsamoro Humanitarian Assistance and Transfer for Individuals in Distress Programme.

The programme provides emotional and psychosocial support and counselling services after emergencies and is implemented as part of the Philippines Roadmap on Adaptive SRSP System.

Also, the Philippine Government's multi-purpose cash assistance was highlighted, which is provided i) in anticipation of emergencies, and ii) for recovery and rehabilitation, along with the comprehensive emergency relief assistance package for families displaced by crises.

Drawing from the highlights and recommendations, Bangladesh will continue their work to build more resilient and responsive social protection systems, for the welfare and livelihoods of its vulnerable populations.



Photo: WFP/ Blanche Cordero

<sup>1</sup> The delegates visited the BARMM-Ministry of Social Services and Development, BARMM-READi (Rapid Emergency Action on Disaster Incidence), and the Municipality of Midsayap in Cotabato province, as well as the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Office of Civil Defense, and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration

<sup>2</sup> Each family food pack consists of 6 kg of rice, 4 cans of tuna, 4 cans of corned beef, 2 cans of sardines, 5 sachets of coffee, and 5 sachets of choco malt drink.

To submit an article to the SSTC global team for the next edition of the SSTC Quarterly Newsletter, please contact: [sstc.global@wfp.org](mailto:sstc.global@wfp.org) (MPC, SSTC Unit).

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