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Content

WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

UN General Assembly Adopts Resolution on South-South Cooperation	3
UNOSSC Launched Its First Innovation Challenge	3
The HDP Nexus Coalition Transforming Food Systems	4
Finance Centre for South-South Cooperation's International Training Programme on Edible Fungi in China	4

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

South-South Policy Dialogue on Post-Harvest Loss Management	5
China Global South Dialogue on Agriculture	5
China-Africa Innovation Cooperation and Development Forum	6
Update: China-Africa Rice Value Chain Initiative	6

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

Malawi Launches a School Feeding Expansion Plan with Support from Brazil	7
Enhancing Family Farming and School Feeding Through SSTC in the Republic of Congo	7
Brazil Shares Experience in School Feeding and Hunger Alleviation at Global Child Nutrition Forum	8

The Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition, Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM)

WFP Officially Transferred CERFAM to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire	9
Côte d'Ivoire Mobilizes Key Actors to Accelerate Regional Nutrition Initiatives	9

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

COP 16: Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Biodiversity Conservation Through SSTC	10
Dominican Republic and Colombia Strengthen Social Protection Through SSTC	10
Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Central America in Disaster Risk Management	11
Guatemala's Role in Advancing Global School Feeding	11
Mexico Supports Peru to Enhance School Feeding Programmes	11
Advancing Shock-Responsive Social Protection, Disaster Finance and Food Security in LAC	12
Strengthening Guatemala's Social Protection Systems	12

Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Uganda Learned from Kenya's Social Protection Programmes	13
Dissemination Workshop for a SSTC Project in the Republic of Congo	13
Cameroon and Armenia Strengthen School Feeding Programmes Through SSTC with Brazil	14
Kenya Strengthens its National School Feeding Programme Through Collaboration with Brazil	15
Strengthening Value Chains Through Knowledge Exchange in The Gambia and Senegal	15
Peer Learning Exchange on Logistics for Disaster Preparedness in Malawi	16

Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

Pakistan Shared Its Experience in Social Protection Through SSTC	17
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WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

UN General Assembly Adopts Resolution on South-South Cooperation

In December, the 79th UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/79/236 on South-South Cooperation (SSC), reaffirming its critical role in advancing sustainable development.

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) served as the substantive secretariat, supporting informal negotiations co-facilitated by Morocco and Portugal.

The resolution underscores key priorities, including:

- Strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- Addressing climate change and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on poverty eradication, food and energy security, and resilience-building.
- Supporting COVID-19 recovery through health system strengthening, economic diversification, and equitable access to vaccines and healthcare.
- Enhancing financial and technological support by urging developed countries to increase investment in digital transformation, science, technology, and innovation.

- Empowering youth and building capacity through digital skills development, employability, and entrepreneurship initiatives.
- Advancing gender equality and prioritising vulnerable communities to ensure that no one is left behind.
- Enhancing UN system-wide coordination by integrating SSC into strategic frameworks and planning instruments across UN entities.

Moving forward, UNOSSC will continue to support UN entities in identifying emerging SSC priorities and ensuring Member States receive the necessary assistance.



UNOSSC Launched Its First Innovation Challenge

In November, UNOSSC launched its [First Innovation Challenge](#) aiming to support the scale-up and visibility of impactful SSTC solutions.

The initiative focuses on four thematic windows:

1. Climate Tech and Renewable Energy: Accelerating adoption of energy solutions focusing on cost, efficiency, and accessibility.
2. Agricultural Productivity and Resilience: Innovative uses of data and tools for climate-resilient agriculture and hunger alleviation.
3. Financial Inclusion and Digital Platforms: Solutions for expanding mobile money platforms and digital financial services for unbanked populations.
4. Urban Planning and Big Data: Using data for informed decisions on urbanization and climate-related risks.

WFP, alongside other partners, supports Thematic Window 2, which focuses on innovative uses of data and tools for climate-resilient agriculture and hunger alleviation.

To encourage broader participation, the deadline for submissions has been extended to February 28, 2025.

On February 4th, UNOSSC jointly with WFP hosted a webinar to provide an opportunity for potential applicants and collaborative groups to gain clarity on the guidelines and application process.

Comprehensive details, including guidelines, application forms, and FAQs, can be accessed on the [Solutions Lab webpage](#).

For further details, you can also contact kmt@unosscc.org or solutionslab@unosscc.org.



WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

The HDP Nexus Coalition Transforming Food Systems

In 2024, the [Humanitarian Development Peace \(HDP\) Nexus Coalition](#) and the [Group of 7+ \(G7+\)](#) established a Community of Practice (CoP) on transforming food systems in complex settings.

The CoP is designed as a platform for knowledge exchange, peer-to-peer learning, and collaboration on issues relevant to food systems transformation in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

The HDP Nexus Coalition emerged from the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 as a multistakeholder mechanism to support Member States affected by food crises and conflict in operationalizing and implementing their [National Food Systems Transformation Pathways](#).

The Coalition is co-chaired by the group of Seven Plus (g7+), [the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute \(SIPRI\)](#), [the Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) and WFP.

It brings together over 65 members committed to mobilizing HDP Nexus approaches and leveraging national food systems agendas to address the structural drivers of food crises.

Finance Centre for South-South Cooperation's International Training Programme on Edible Fungi in China

In December, the Government of China hosted the first International Training Programme on Edible Fungi Cultivation Technology and Sustainable Agriculture, jointly with the Finance Centre for SSC (FCSSC) and the Chinese Promotion Centre for Edible Fungi Cultivation.

The programme aimed to enhance developing countries' capabilities to promote sustainable agriculture, through sharing knowledge of edible fungi cultivation technology and its application.

The programme will contribute to the agricultural production improvement, poverty reduction, address climate challenges, improve local employment and community development, especially for women and other vulnerable groups.

The programme also emphasized SSTC as a way to promote capacity building and establish strategic partnership among developing countries while supporting the realization of the SDGs.

The programme included 24 participants from developing countries worldwide, and officials from ministries and local governments, scholars and researchers on agricultural development and poverty reduction; international organizations; agricultural entrepreneurs; non-governmental organizations; and more.

In October, the CoP organised its first learning session titled "Understanding Our Food Systems' Financial Landscape, Constraints, and Opportunities" to exchange learning and tools related to understanding financial resources flowing to food systems.

The CoP will convene another learning session in the first quarter of 2025 to share experience navigating the policy-investment nexus in complex settings.



The 5-day workshop on edible fungi provided a detailed explanation of cultivation techniques, processing systems from traditional methods to leveraging advanced technology, marketing and sales, innovative financing mechanisms, SSTC as well as communication materials for visibility of the product.

During the programme the first [Tremella Industry Development Conference](#) was also launched along with the Centre for training.

This conference will be an annual event, and China looks to share their knowledge on edible fungi with other countries systematically going forward.



Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

South-South Policy Dialogue on Post-Harvest Loss Management

In October, the China National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration and Henan University of Technology, in collaboration with WFP China CoE, conducted a five-day Post-Harvest Loss Management South-South Policy Dialogue.

Themed around Access to Technology, the event brought together over 100 government officials, academics, and private sector experts from 12 Asian and African countries.

The dialogue focused on sharing expertise and technology for managing post-harvest losses across the entire value chain and included practical in-field exchanges and demonstrations.

Participants emphasized that the efficiency of agri-food systems largely depends on using the right machinery, that can benefit smallholder farmers worldwide.

Next steps include:

- Strengthening the adoption of mechanized solutions to reduce post-harvest losses, drawing from China's experience.
- Exploring affordable and applicable machinery for African countries, such as rice processing lines and cassava processing machines.
- Supporting small-scale producers in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Kenya by improving post-harvest treatment, commodity quality control, and market access.
- Engaging with partners to scale impact and drive further collaboration in post-harvest loss management (PHLM).



China Global South Dialogue on Agriculture

In November, the Foreign Economic Cooperation Centre of MARA hosted the inaugural Global South Dialogue on Agriculture. The high-level dialogue was held in Beijing and focused on advancing agricultural and rural development through SSTC.

The dialogue gathered government representatives from developing countries, including Sri Lanka, Morocco and Uganda.

Delegates from international organizations such as UNOSSC and FAO and representatives from major financial institutions such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation also joined the conference.

Participants called for collective efforts to tackle global food security challenges and transform agri-food systems, emphasizing the need for increased investment and support from all stakeholders.

Mr. Simon Clements, WFP China Deputy Director, engaged in a panel discussion to address food security, rural and agricultural development and national solutions.

He shared how WFP-facilitated SSTC through its CoEs in Brazil and China, as well as India country office (CO), effectively transfer knowledge and skills.

He also emphasized the importance of closing the gender gap in agriculture and engaging the private sector to strengthen food systems.

This high-level dialogue recognizes an impactful and pragmatic force of SSTC in bridging gaps for developing countries, facilitating knowledge sharing and technology transfer and channelling resources for broad collaboration.

China is committed to leveraging SSTC to explore innovative models of agricultural development within the Global South and foster collaboration among developing nations to tackle shared agricultural challenges.

See more details [here](#).



Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

China-Africa Innovation Cooperation and Development Forum

In November, the Ministry of Science and Technology of China and Hubei Provincial Government hosted the 2024 China-Africa Innovation Cooperation and Development Forum in Wuhan, Hubei Province.

The forum aimed to enhance cooperation between China and Africa in areas such as agriculture, biodiversity, public health, and education.

During the event, the [China-Africa Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation Alliance \(CAASTIA\)](#) was launched.

Additionally, the Forum hosted the "China-Central African Republic Agricultural Development Exchange Event," organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), to promote bilateral agricultural cooperation between China and the Central African Republic.

Update: China-Africa Rice Value Chain Initiative

In December, the [China-Africa Rice Value Chain Initiative](#), jointly facilitated by WFP China CoE and the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) in Côte d'Ivoire, achieved significant milestones in its efforts to support smallholder farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

The initiative is designed to strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers to reduce post-harvest loss and address food insecurity.

Last year it received an additional USD 50,000 contribution from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, bringing the total funding for the three-phase project to USD 830,000.

This funding will support the project evaluation and the development and the sharing of evidence-based knowledge products.

The Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea play a crucial role in this initiative by providing institutional support, facilitating policy alignment, and ensuring that smallholder farmers benefit from the project's innovations.

Their engagement includes the endorsement of post-harvest management strategies, coordination with national agricultural agencies, and integration of project outcomes into broader national food security and rural development policies.

In October, as part of the initiative implementation, WFP COs in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, in collaboration with government agencies delivered 600 mini steel silos to smallholder farmers involved in the project.

The establishment of CAASTIA is a landmark initiative that underscores the commitment of China to strengthening agricultural cooperation between China and Africa.

By fostering innovation and collaboration in agricultural technologies, CAASTIA can contribute to enhancing food security, improving agricultural productivity, and addressing the root causes of hunger and malnutrition in Africa.

This initiative aligns with WFP's objectives of achieving Zero Hunger and promoting sustainable agricultural development through SSTC.

Looking forward, it can provide valuable insights and resources to enhance WFP's work and enable the transfer of knowledge and technology to African countries.

These silos, built by China, represent an innovative post-harvest storage solution, helping farmers minimize post-harvest losses and improve grain storage capacity, thereby enhancing local food security in the region.

The China-Africa Rice Value Chain Initiative exemplifies the impact of SSTC, showcasing how innovative solutions and knowledge sharing can contribute to addressing regional food security challenges.

This strong collaboration between the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, CERFAM, the WFP China CoE, and Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea COs underscores importance of innovative partnerships in achieving long-term development goals.

These efforts are aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and SDG 2.



Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

Malawi Launches a School Feeding Expansion Plan with Support from Brazil

In December, Malawi's Secretary of Education, officially launched the expansion strategy for the country's School Feeding Programme, aiming to increase the number of elementary schools offering school meals from 43% covered currently to 100% by 2030.

Malawi has been a member of the School Feeding Coalition since 2023 and is set to present its national commitments under the global initiative.

This milestone marks the culmination of over a decade of SSTC between Brazil and Malawi, facilitated by WFP Brazil CoE.

The partnership began in 2012 when the Centre played a key role in the development of Malawi's National School Health and Nutrition Policy.

In November, during a three-week mission, WFP Brazil CoE followed the development of the Expansion Plan. This process engaged government stakeholders and local communities to create a comprehensive roadmap for scaling up the programme.

Enhancing Family Farming and School Feeding Through SSTC in the Republic of Congo

In November, the Government of the Republic of Congo (RoC), in collaboration with WFP Brazil CoE and RoC CO, hosted a series of three capacity-building workshops.

The workshops aimed to strengthen the link between family farming and school feeding programmes.

These workshops brought together representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Brazilian Ambassador, members of the project's steering committee, local farmers' associations, and WFP staff.

The participants showcased a broad coalition of stakeholders committed to advancing food security and education.

The workshops provided participants with practical knowledge and tools to improve agricultural productivity and integrate local family farming into sustainable school feeding initiatives.

Key themes included food supply chain management and inclusive procurement practices prioritising smallholder farmers.

WFP Brazil CoE plans to continue its support through advocacy and technical assistance as part of SSTC. Additionally, a new WFP staff member will be embedded within Malawi's Ministry of Education to oversee the on-site implementation of the plan.

To learn more about this collaboration, watch the [video](#) and read the full [article](#).



This initiative is part of the ongoing ["Seeds for Tomorrow" project](#), which has already equipped local farmers with tools to enhance family farming practices in RoC.

Moving forward, RoC aims to develop a national action plan based on the recommendations shared during the workshops.

They will also conduct follow-up training sessions to strengthen local capacity leveraging Brazil's expertise in family farming and school feeding to support long-term food security goals.



Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

Brazil Shares Experience in School Feeding and Hunger Alleviation at Global Child Nutrition Forum

In December, the Brazilian Government showcased its leadership in school feeding, hunger alleviation and family farming at the 24th Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) in Japan.

The Forum supports developing countries in implementing sustainable school feeding programmes.

The GCNF is an important platform for collaboration, sharing information and establishing new partnerships. A series of bilateral meetings were held to explore new areas of work, particularly in SSTC.

During the event, the General Coordinator for Food and Nutrition Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented the Group of 20's Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty to participants.

They also highlighted Brazil's school feeding policy which is based on local procurement to support smallholder farmers.

The President of the National Fund for the Development of Education (FNDE) highlighted Brazil's innovative approach to domestic financing for school feeding.

She detailed how the National School Feeding Programme is financed across multiple government levels and supported by a decentralised monitoring system to ensure effective implementation.

WFP Brazil CoE coordinated a workshop on climate-smart strategies for nutritious and sustainable food systems.

During the session, government representatives from Brazil, Cambodia, and Kenya discussed the challenges of integrating family farming into school feeding programmes and shared strategies to overcome these obstacles.

The Congolese delegation, including the Director of Primary Education at the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MEPPSA) also joined the event.

The delegation gained valuable insights from Brazil's school feeding experience, influencing RoC's approach to building a similar system rooted in local agriculture.

As the next step, RoC plans to join the 2nd School Meals Coalition Meeting planned in Brazil in September 2025.



Photo: WFP/Caroline Melo

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

The Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition, Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM)

WFP Officially Transferred CERFAM to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire

In December, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and WFP signed two memoranda of understanding (MoU) to formalize the transfer of CERFAM to Côte d'Ivoire and entrust its management to WFP.

This important step underscores Côte d'Ivoire's ownership of CERFAM and highlights its trust in WFP's expertise, marking a pivotal milestone in advancing the fight against hunger and malnutrition across Africa.

Established in 2018 by Côte d'Ivoire with support from WFP, CERFAM has emerged as a strategic hub for documenting and implementing good practices, fostering SSTC, and providing targeted technical assistance.

Under the leadership of the Vice President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the renewed partnership ensures CERFAM's continued role in delivering impactful, localized solutions to strengthen community resilience to address food security challenges.

This transfer also reflects Côte d'Ivoire's commitment to the African Union's Agenda 2063 with aspirations of inclusive growth and sustainable development, while also contributing to the global SDGs, particularly SDG 2.

The signing of these agreements solidifies WFP's role in providing technical expertise, targeted advocacy, and support for SSTC initiatives.

CERFAM remains a catalyst for innovation and knowledge-sharing, playing a pivotal role in transforming Africa's food systems and fostering sustainable solutions for food security.

Together, the State of Côte d'Ivoire and WFP reaffirm their commitment to strengthen the resilience of African communities.

Regional states and partners are encouraged to actively engage in this initiative to realize the shared vision of an Africa free from hunger and malnutrition.

Any request for assistance or participation in this initiative should be addressed to both the State of Côte d'Ivoire and CERFAM.



Côte d'Ivoire Mobilizes Key Actors to Accelerate Regional Nutrition Initiatives

In November, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire through CERFAM, hosted a high-level regional consultation in Abidjan.

The consultation was organized under the patronage of the Vice-President of Côte d'Ivoire and in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and key development partners.

The event brought together representatives from 32 African countries, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and technical and financial partners.

The consultation harnessed the potential of SSTC to address malnutrition across Africa.

Participants discussed effective multisectoral coordination mechanisms, taxation on sugar-sweetened foods ("sin taxes"), complementary food fortification with dried fish, breastmilk banks, and community mobilization for exclusive breastfeeding.

A significant focus of the consultation was aligning commitments for the 2025 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in Paris, where Côte d'Ivoire will co-chair the International Advisory Group.

Discussions addressed priorities such as integrating nutrition into universal health coverage, transforming food systems, and addressing the impact of climate change on nutrition to build resilience and sustainable progress.

CERFAM will document and promote these initiatives, facilitating their adaptation and replication through SSTC frameworks.

A follow-up consultation in 2025 will further explore innovative strategies and tailored approaches ensuring continued momentum in tackling malnutrition and advancing food and nutrition security across Africa.



Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

COP 16: Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Biodiversity Conservation Through SSTC

In October, the Government of Colombia jointly with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) hosted the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) of CBD.

A key event during the conference was the Extraordinary Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), which included representatives from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam, and Venezuela.

The meeting highlighted the role of SSTC in promoting regional cooperation for the conservation of the Amazon biome and sustainable development.

The event provided a platform for sharing experiences and strategies to address the complex challenges of biodiversity loss, deforestation, and environmental degradation in the Amazon, reinforcing the value of SSTC in conservation work.

A key outcome of the meeting was the approval of the [Declaration of Cali](#), which reinforced the commitment of Amazonian nations to protect the Amazon biome and advance sustainable economies including through SSTC.

Bolivia's contribution underscored the significance of indigenous knowledge and traditional practices in conservation efforts.

WFP actively supported COP16 by linking biodiversity conservation and food security, with a focus on promoting scalable actions to restore degraded land, improve drought resilience and strengthen food security in the region.

Moving forward, the commitment outlined in the Declaration of Cali will be implemented through joint work plans and collaborative efforts among Amazonian nations.

Bolivia, in cooperation with Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, will play a key role in ensuring the active participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in these initiatives.



Dominican Republic and Colombia Strengthen Social Protection Through SSTC

In October, the Dominican Republic's Unified Beneficiary System (SIUBEN) representatives visited Colombia to gain knowledge, experience and best practices in social registry management.

This visit showcased Colombia's Identification System of Potential Beneficiaries of Social Programmes (SISBEN). The programme uses innovative approaches to social registry processes.

WFP facilitated discussions on improving population access to social programmes and enhancing information systems. This was part of a two-phase South-South exchange facilitated by WFP.

The first phase strengthened collaboration between the National Planning Department (DNP), the Social Prosperity Department of Colombia and Colombia CO, fostering inter-institutional dialogue on social protection.

In November, building on this foundation, SIUBEN, supported by WFP organized the second phase of the South-South exchange in the Dominican Republic. Representatives of SISBEN, DNP and WFP joined the exchange.

The event featured technical workshops and discussions focused on the implementation of universal social registries, data security and the use of emerging technologies like drones for data collection.

Delegations also explored strategies to enhance emergency response capabilities, recognizing the vital role social registries play in disaster preparedness and recovery.

This exchange demonstrated the power of mutual learning, with SIUBEN adopting SISBEN's best practices to enhance its processes and SISBEN gaining insights from SIUBEN's innovative approaches.

The initiative not only strengthened the capacities of both institutions but also reinforced WFP's role as a facilitator of SSTC.

Looking ahead, SIUBEN and SISBEN reaffirm their commitment to maintaining active collaboration and exploring innovative technologies and adaptive strategies to address emerging challenges in social protection.



Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Central America in Disaster Risk Management

In October, the Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC) organized the Regional Consultative Forum on the Central American Policy on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in Guatemala.

The forum was jointly organized by the Central American Integration System, and Guatemala's CONRED.

Key representatives from national civil and social protection institutions across Central America and the Dominican Republic, FAO, regional and country offices of the Red Cross and WFP joined the forum.

The event aimed to institutionalize Anticipatory Action (AA) and share evidence-based experiences and the sustainability of AA initiatives within the framework of the [Regional Comprehensive Risk Management Plan \(PRGIRD\) 2024-2030](#).

Guatemala's Role in Advancing Global School Feeding

In October, Guatemala's Minister of Education (MINEDUC) participated in the Second Ministerial Meeting of the School Meals Coalition's Task Force, held in Kenya, with support from WFP Guatemala CO.

The meeting served as a platform to review the Coalition's progress, set goals for the next two years, and plan actions to address critical global challenges.

The event was chaired by Brazil, Finland, and France, bringing together Task Force members from Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Sweden, and the USA.

Representatives from the Novo Nordisk Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the African Development Bank and more also participated.

The meeting focused on linking school meals with broader issues such as food systems, climate action, nutrition and education.

These efforts aim to generate political momentum ahead of key events in 2025, including the Coalition's Second Global Summit and its Third Working Group Meeting in 2026.

Mexico Supports Peru to Enhance School Feeding Programmes

In October, the Government of Mexico, in collaboration with WFP, visited Peru to provide their technical support to enhancing Peru's school feeding programmes.

The Mexican delegation supported the Peruvian Government in redesigning its Qali Warma National School Feeding Programme.

The delegation shared Mexico's expertise in school feeding, including the use of local agricultural products, setting up school kitchens and providing funds for the local purchase of food and payment of food workers.

The forum also focused on securing national and international funding to further expand AA initiatives across LAC.

As part of the discussions, multi-stakeholder national AA working groups were established, enhancing cooperation between member states and harmonizing national AA protocols.

A highlight of the event was the formalization of the Regional Framework Cooperation Agreement between WFP and CEPREDENAC, which further solidified the partnership between the two organizations in advancing disaster risk management in the region.

Moving forward, WFP will continue to support the regional and national mapping for Guatemala and coordination of AA at regional and national levels, integrating it into Disaster Risk Management policies and plans for 2025 and beyond.

Guatemala highlighted its achievements in fulfilling the Coalition's commitments, including expanding coverage, increasing resource allocation and focusing on nutrition in school meals.

The country also acknowledged the challenges faced, including the need for additional support in improving educational outcomes, school infrastructure, and strengthening connections between schools and family farming.

Looking ahead, MINEDUC will work together with the Guatemala CO to fulfil its commitments, while also participating in key events in 2025.



Key results from the mission included the agreement to pilot (or test) a decentralized school feeding model in 200 urban schools in Lima by 2025, with parents managing food procurement and more.

The mission also highlighted the importance of intersectoral policies and regulatory advancements such as Mexico's General Law of Adequate and Sustainable Food.

This collaboration demonstrated Mexico's engagement in SSTC and set the stage for continued technical support and exchanges between the two countries in improving school feeding programmes.

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

Advancing Shock-Responsive Social Protection, Disaster Finance and Food Security in LAC

In October and December, Governments across the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region participated in a series of virtual sessions on Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) and Disaster Risk Finance Management.

The sessions were organized by the Thematic Group on SRSP, promoted by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

These sessions served as a platform for exchanging experiences and fostering knowledge generation.

The sessions brought together over 300 participants including representatives from governments, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and independent experts.

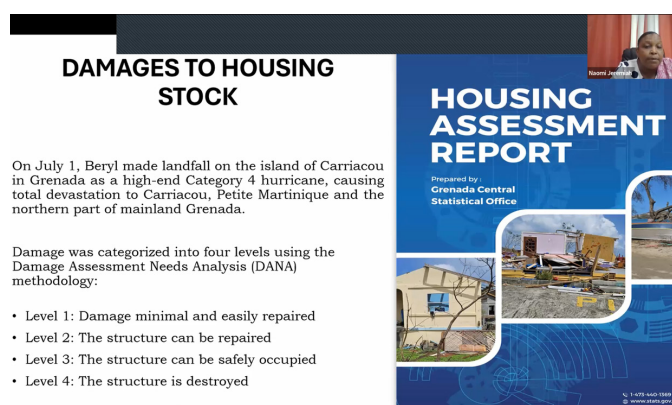
The discussions focused on anticipatory action, climate change, disaster risk finance and food security.

These engagements provided key insights into innovative policy solutions for managing disaster risks and strengthening social protection systems.

During the session on disaster finance in October, the Ministry of Social and Community Development, Housing, and Gender Affairs in Grenada, shared Grenada's approach to addressing the impact of Hurricane Beryl.

In December, the conversation shifted to SRSP and food security. The Social Integration Secretary of Colombia presented the subnational social protection system supporting indigenous communities displaced by conflict and non-residents of Bogotá.

Through these discussions, WFP drives knowledge sharing and inspires innovative approaches to address the interconnected challenges of disaster risk, social protection and food security.



Strengthening Guatemala's Social Protection Systems

In November, the Government of Guatemala collaborated with WFP to learn about a SRSP methodology and a comprehensive capacity-strengthening plan.

This mission marked an important step toward building a more resilient and inclusive social protection framework in the country.

The Ministries of Social Development (MIDES) and Agriculture (MAGA), as well as the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) joined the discussions.

The initiative was a joint effort of WFP's Headquarters, the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBP), and WFP Guatemala CO's Programme Unit.

The mission's primary objective was to provide technical assistance to these institutions, equipping them with the tools and knowledge needed to adopt, develop, and institutionalize their own national SRSP intervention model.

A major highlight of the mission was the successful alignment of MIDES, MAGA, and CONRED for the first time to collectively endorse the SRSP methodology in Guatemala.

Drawing on successful practices from other countries in the region and WFP's global model, political leaders and technical staff gained valuable insights into assessing and strengthening national capacities for SRSP.

Looking ahead, WFP will continue to support the Government's SRSP plan, with a focus on building the capacities of CONRED, MIDES, and MAGA.

This includes fostering knowledge exchange opportunities with the Dominican Republic and other countries that have successfully implemented similar initiatives.



Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Uganda Learned from Kenya's Social Protection Programmes

In September, a delegation from Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development visited Kenya to learn about the country's social protection programmes.

The visit was hosted by Kenya's Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and focused on cash transfers, feedback mechanisms, data management and more.

Kenya is working to increase social protection coverage from 1.2 million to 2.5 million households by 2026.

The Inua Jamii "Older Persons Cash Transfer" Programme (OPCT) is one of Kenya's social protection programmes that, with support of WFP, expanded to 500,000 households in 2024 bringing total coverage to 1.7 million.

During the visit, Ugandan officials saw firsthand how cash transfers supported Inua Jamii beneficiaries to meet basic needs, pay school fees and improve nutrition.

The delegation recognised Kenya as a good example for implementing effective social protection strategies given the similarities between the two countries.

The visit was supported by WFP with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

Following the visit, Uganda invited the Government of Kenya to participate and share their experiences during its National Dialogue for Social Protection in October 2024, further strengthening bilateral collaboration.

The National Dialogue emphasized social protection's pivotal role in achieving the Human Capital Development targets outlined in the Uganda National Development Plan.

The event featured the Honourable Minister of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, who provided insights and made concrete commitments towards strengthening social protection frameworks.

Looking ahead, Uganda plans to apply lessons from the visit to Kenya to strengthen its own systems. By doing so, the country aims to better support vulnerable populations and expand access to sustainable social protection.

Dissemination Workshop for a SSTC Project in the Republic of Congo

In November, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Congo (RoC) participated in a dissemination workshop for a SSTC project.

The Chinese Embassy in RoC, the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS), MARA, local farmer cooperatives, and international partners such as FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP also joined the event.

The project funded by MARA was launched in 2022 and aimed to enhance the capacity of smallholder farmers to supply fortified cassava and banana products to local markets in the Bouenza, Pool, and Plateaux departments.

The workshop shared the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from the three phases of the SSTC project.

Presentations showcased successful strategies for cassava and banana production, processing techniques, and market access initiatives.

A detailed report was also presented, highlighting the positive impact of the project on local food systems and farmers' livelihoods.

Interactive sessions allowed participants to discuss sustainability and collaboratively develop an action plan to scale up the project's initiatives.

Discussions focused on resource mobilisation and setting implementation timelines, ensuring alignment with local needs.

The workshop provided a vital platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration, laying the groundwork for future interventions.

The outcomes will inform subsequent project phases, fostering continued partnerships to strengthen local food systems and support smallholder farmers through SSTC.



Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Cameroon and Armenia Strengthen School Feeding Programmes Through SSTC with Brazil

In October, the Governments of Cameroon and Armenia conducted study visits to Brazil to gain technical knowledge and explore best practices in large-scale school feeding initiatives.

The exchanges were supported by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Educational Development (FNDE) and facilitated by WFP.

They provided valuable insights into Brazil's National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), one of the world's most extensive school feeding models.

Representatives from the Ministries of Basic Education, Agriculture, Economy and Planning, and External Relations, as well as the World Bank Cameroon joined the Cameroonian delegation.

They focused on strategies to support Cameroon's goal of expanding school meal coverage from 100,000 to 1 million children by 2025.

During their visit, the Cameroonian delegation explored Brazil's institutional frameworks for school feeding and their links with family farming, broader food and nutrition security strategies.

Participants engaged in workshops, high-level meetings, and field visits, where they explored topics such as water management in food security, monitoring and evaluation, and resource mobilisation.

Looking forward, Cameroon will:

- i) Finalise and validate its National School Feeding Strategy and the scaling up of the Home-Grown School Feeding at national and regional levels;
- ii) Engage with global School Meal Coalition to support fund raising for school feeding in Cameroon;
- iii) Promote schools as centres of development and support smallholder farmers and markets as part of the value chain linked to school feeding;
- iv) Continue collaboration with Brazil and international community.

Similarly, as a separate mission, the Armenian delegation, led by the Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports, included senior officials from multiple ministries and representatives from the School Feeding and Child Welfare Foundation.

This initiative aimed to explore Brazil's PNAE and discover ways to improve Armenia's school feeding efforts.

The Armenian delegation's visit also marked a milestone, as Armenia became a founding member of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and committed to establishing a Centre of Excellence to advance best practices.

As the next steps Armenia plans to:

- i) Host a follow-up mission with a Brazilian delegation, further strengthening collaboration; and
- ii) Engage with global partners, including the School Meal Coalition, for resource mobilisation through initiatives like SABER and School Feeding Investment (SFI).



Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Kenya Strengthens its National School Feeding Programme Through Collaboration with Brazil

In December, a Kenyan Government delegation, supported by WFP and the Rockefeller Foundation, visited Brazil to learn from its successful model for large-scale school feeding programmes.

The visit followed the launch of Kenya's National School Meals Coalition and its Scale-up Plan to provide nutritious meals to 10 million learners by 2030.

The delegation was comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, and Environment, Parliament, the County Government of Nairobi, the Office of the First Lady, the Rockefeller Foundation, Food for Education and farmer groups.

During the visit, participants studied Brazil's innovative governance models for school meals, local food procurement systems, and strategies to reduce the carbon footprint of school feeding programmes.

The delegation also explored Brazil's approach to intersectoral collaboration within the Government.

These lessons are expected to inform Kenya's efforts to expand its school feeding programme.

This knowledge exchange aligns with Kenya's commitment to enhancing school nutrition and fostering partnerships to improve children's well-being.

It builds on a broader initiative supported by WFP, including the second Ministerial Meeting of the Global School Meals Coalition Taskforce, held in Nairobi, in October.

Kenya now has an action plan toward reaching and providing nutritious meals to 10 million learners by 2030.



Strengthening Value Chains Through Knowledge Exchange in The Gambia and Senegal

In January, the Government of The Gambia visited Senegal to explore advanced technologies, innovations in value chains, and post-harvest management approaches for farmer organizations.

The visit also aimed to foster regional partnership and economic advancement techniques for farming communities.

The Gambian delegation included representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources, the National Farmers Platform, the National Coordinating Organisation of Farmer Associations in The Gambia, the Wuli Groundnut Association and the Young Farmers Association of The Gambia.

In Senegal, participants engaged with institutions such as the Institute for Agricultural Research, the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, Federation of Saloum Maize Producers (FEPROMAS), the Network of Farmers' and Pastoral Organizations (RESOPP) and the Crop Post-Loss Management Unit.

The study visit enhanced the knowledge of the Government of The Gambia as well as farmer organizations in value chain dynamics and market opportunities.

Similar networking strategies were highlighted by Senegal looking to explore learning opportunities in The Gambia through The Gambia Chamber of Commerce.

The initiative also sought to improve post-harvest management by strengthening the capacity of the Governments in Senegal and The Gambia to engage with private sector value chain actors.

Moving forward, The Gambia aims to continue fostering similar initiatives with other institutions in Senegal.

The Gambia through workshops with relevant government departments and farmer organisations will further strengthen value chains and market access.



Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Peer Learning Exchange on Logistics for Disaster Preparedness in Malawi

In November, the Malawi Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and Malawi CO hosted a three-day regional peer learning exchange on Logistics for Disaster Preparedness in Malawi.

The South-South initiative is part of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO) funded Phase II of the [regional project “Fostering Community Resilience through Preparedness Activities in Southern Africa”](#).

The exchange is a concrete action point from the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (SAIO) Regional Preparedness Workshop held by DG-ECHO and WFP in October in Namibia.

The peer learning exchange focused strategies of preparing supplies, equipment and resources in advance to enhance disaster preparedness.

It aimed at creating a platform for discussions on regional logistics capacity related to emergency response, including developing regional policies, agreements, and strategies to improve coordination.

Representatives from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Emergency and Operation Centre (SHOC), National Disaster Management Agencies of Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi Red Cross, Malawi Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MoTPW), Northwest University, as well as WFP participated in the exchange.

Throughout the peer learning exchange, the participants formulated a list of key priorities that were presented in the SADC DRM Ministerial Meeting in November.

Key priorities and next steps include:

- Develop Regional Prepositioning Strategy including the protocol and procedures for sharing resources;
- Develop and adopt SADC MoU for logistics emergency response protocol to facilitate cross border movement of humanitarian assistance;
- Accelerate regional investment in rail as a transport mode across the region;
- Establish common standards for food commodities, transport, and more;
- Dedicate budget for prepositioning stock at the regional level.



Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

Pakistan Shared Its Experience in Social Protection Through SSTC

In October and November, delegations from Uganda, Senegal, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali, supported by UNICEF, the World Bank and WFP, participated in study tours to learn from Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

The Government of Uganda and WFP jointly organized a three-day learning visit to Pakistan in October with funding from SIDA.

Delegates explored BISP's innovative poverty reduction strategies, including its social registry, targeted cash transfers, and the nutrition-focused Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP).

Visits to BISP facilitation centres provided valuable insights and exchanges with stakeholders and beneficiaries.

They entailed sharing best practices, challenges and recommendations for implementing regular and shock-responsive programmes as experienced by Pakistan.

For Uganda, the visit was pivotal for learning how to enhance visibility for its Social Registry as a transformative tool for wealth creation in the National Development Plan (NDPIV).

Looking forward, Uganda will finalize data collection to ensure high quality data for policy review and to strengthen data protection frameworks and management processes.

These study tours follow an increase in exchanges in Pakistan including in April when the Government of Timor-Leste learned about BISP's nutrition-sensitive programming with a focus on enhancing social safety nets.

These initiatives highlight SSTC as a modality for sharing innovations, fostering partnerships, and strengthening social protection systems globally.

The next steps include continued collaboration among participating countries to implement tailored strategies for improving food security and resilience.

See more details [here](#) and [here](#).



Photo: WFP/Pakistan

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

To view previous editions, [click here](#).

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