



World Food Programme
Centre of Excellence
against Hunger

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Annual Report 2022

Centre of Excellence against Hunger

April 2023

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Dear reader,

With great satisfaction, I present this Annual Report with the main highlights of the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil's activities in 2022.

Throughout the year, the Centre of Excellence renewed its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Even in the pandemic context, we reconciled the fulfilment of our vision and institutional mission with the safety of our employees and partners. The Centre has advanced on several fronts to continue strengthening national capacities, local governments, communities, and the exchange of Brazilian good practices, focusing on activities for nutrition, home-grown school feeding, smallholder farming, and generating sustainable solutions. Such advances allow us to affirm that we have contributed to the consolidation of the SDGs, especially for alleviation of poverty (SDG 1) and seeking the eradication of hunger (SDG 2) through alliances and cooperation (SDG 17), which are the axes of our work.

The Centre of Excellence has expanded its partnerships over the years. This has allowed us to keep working with sustainable production and creation of local markets within the Beyond Cotton Project, continuing to provide technical support and strengthen capacities for development in countries such as Benin, Tanzania, and Mozambique. This project achieved important goals in 2022, such as establishing mechanisms for direct purchase from smallholder farmers and increasing food production in diversified systems, all with a holistic vision and a focus on nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture to improve local income and fight food and nutrition insecurity.

It was also a year to continue the implementation of projects such as Nurture the Future, which brings together efforts, actions and strategies from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru in the fight against childhood obesity and malnutrition. In this context, the Centre of Excellence has intensified the search for solutions to address the multiple burden of malnutrition (malnutrition, nutritional deficiencies, overweight or obesity) through alliances with national public institutions and the nutrition and health sectors, considered essential for the management of food and nutrition public policies.

Since the beginning of the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil's operations, we have prioritized the development of impact initiatives that contribute to solving social

problems. Therefore, in 2022, we continued to expand the scope of our efforts and generate resources from socially innovative proposals for development. In this sense, the online portfolio of services has been expanded with the Virtual Exchanges initiative. This initiative makes it possible to optimize guidance efforts and cooperation between countries, reducing costs and democratizing access to knowledge. As part of the process of returning to the new normal, South-South exchanges were prioritized. In June we welcomed the first face-to-face study visit by a delegation from Ethiopia – an initiative that will continue in 2023 with other countries. In addition, we work intensively creating content, organizing technical conferences, and promoting other forms of dialogue to build and strengthen public policies in the areas of nutrition, school meals, and smallholder agriculture.

By 2030 we hope to reach the final milestone of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and there are only eight years left. The world is still on track to meet most of the indicators and targets set. Therefore, it is essential to persevere and intensify our actions and efforts to save and change lives. We at the Centre of Excellence finished the year with the certainty of having contributed to the consolidation of SDGs 1, 2, and 17 and of having renewed our commitment to the collective well-being and socioeconomic development in Brazil and the world.

The WFP, as a member of the United Nations, and various organizations around the world remain tireless in the pursuit of social justice, development, and equality. Thus, when we look ahead and see the challenges, we are optimistic that we can overcome them. In 2023 we will continue to save and, above all, transform lives.

Daniel Balaban

WFP representative in Brazil and Director of the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger

54,000
pageviews

48  press queries

127 graphic and visual materials created

4  publications

+ 50
partnerships with the public and private sectors

19 countries

benefited from humanitarian donations made by the Brazilian government with logistical and operational support from the WFP Centre of excellence and Country Offices

5 countries

in Triangular South-South Cooperation



Technical assistance to

8 countries



Facilitated knowledge exchanges between

13 countries



The beginning of the work of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger, under the partnership with the Brazilian government, focused mainly on direct or indirect promotion of national school-meal programmes. In addition to technical assistance for capacity development, the Centre has also undertaken efforts to disseminate ideas, concepts, and good practices for overcoming hunger.

In the WFP Centre of Excellence's early years, we had study visits and technical missions to countries with the aim of fostering dialogue on the importance of public policies, South-South learning and training in school feeding, nutrition, and food security. Today we are working towards expanding food and nutrition security policies and programmes with a multisectoral perspective, particularly social safety net programmes that include home-grown school feeding. The work of the Centre of Excellence also proposes to meet the different needs of each country, adapting to the global political and economic context. This is how the need to provide remote assistance increased. In recent years, we have been supporting countries and facilitating exchanges thanks to digital tools that offer support in a quick, flexible and economic way.

A great deal of evidence shows that school-meal programmes bring significant benefits to communities by improving students' education, nutrition, and health. More recently, the Centre of Excellence has also sought to highlight the importance that these programmes can have for the development agriculture in countries. By establishing a formal and stable market for smallholder farmers, these programmes not only provide schools with healthy, quality, locally produced food, but also help develop local jobs, generate opportunities for youth and women, and strengthen food systems.

Throughout its history, the Centre of Excellence has promoted technical assistance and disseminated knowledge and opportunities in its areas of expertise, operating as a global hub for dialogue for policy design, capacity development, and South-South technical assistance to promote actions in the areas of nutrition, smallholder farming, school meals, and social protection.

Our main objective is to bring together countries that face similar challenges in the areas of food and nutrition security, with a special focus on home-grown school feeding programmes linked to smallholder farming and nutrition.

We have learned, over the 11 years in which we have carried out this work at the Centre of Excellence, that the various demands associated with the cross-cutting theme of food security evolve and bring new challenges. It is through investment and country leadership that programmes advance and can become an integral and enduring part of social protection systems.

In this sense, strengthening the national capacity of countries in home-grown school feeding (HGSP) encourages developing synergies between school feeding, local agriculture and smallholder farmers, generating inclusive acquisitions, short supply chain, local employment, increased income in communities and better nutrition.

Our job as WFP and as the United Nations is to provide technical assistance and advocacy to countries, continuously focusing on new needs and best practices – as has been done through the emphasis on home-grown school feeding programmes.



ACTIVITIES

OF THE WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
IN BRAZIL

Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde

ACTIVITIES

OF THE WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN BRAZIL



1.1 Advisory Services and Technical Assistance

PROGRAMME AND POLICY DESIGN

The World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil was invited to support the efforts of the USR PLUS party to promote school meals in Romania, with the participation of two coalition parties and Human Catalyst, an NGO that supports local education and social justice. In a face-to-face mission in the country, the Centre of Excellence team discussed the importance of school-meal programmes in meetings held with coalition parties.

The agenda also included discussions with the Parliament-led school feeding working group and visits to schools in Valea Mare Pravăț, Argeș County, in the Muntenia region. During the mission, examples of countries implementing school meals were shared – some with successful experience in local procurement such as Brazil, Cambodia, Kenya, Togo, Bangladesh, and Armenia. The mission also identified that, in addition to Human Catalyst, other NGOs may support the government with expertise in implementing school feeding. Romania's goal

is to scale up the school-meal programme throughout the country to serve all children from kindergarten to high school.



Photo: WFP/Arete/Ruvin Da Silva

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

Pilot project in Sierra Leone

The WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil supported the WFP Country Office in Sierra Leone with their home-grown school feeding initiative in 17 schools in two districts, providing schools with money to buy fresh vegetables produced by local farmers. The initiative resulted from the collaboration between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the WFP office in Sierra Leone, and the National Secretariat for School Feeding. The Centre of Excellence's support in the process took place through technical assistance and facilitation of South-South exchanges on issues ranging from logistics to smallholder purchases. As part of the support, representatives from the Centre of Excellence in Brazil

and WFP Sierra Leone's School Feeding Unit visited two schools in Kambia, one of the two districts where the local food procurement pilot is being implemented. They also visited a swamp region that is receiving technical assistance from WFP to produce vegetables to sell to the school-meal programme. The collaboration between WFP in Brazil and Sierra Leone aimed to share country experiences in home-grown school feeding to reinforce the model currently in place in the African country and prepare it for scale-up.

Assistance to São Tomé and Príncipe

The WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil was invited to join the decentralized Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) to evaluate capacity building activities for government and local communities in São Tomé and Príncipe (2019-2022). Since 2019, the WFP office in São Tomé and Príncipe has been implementing the Country Strategic Plan (CSP), which seeks to strengthen the local government's capacity to develop a gender-sensitive home-grown school feeding programme linked to smallholder farming that is environmentally and socially sustainable by 2030. The results and recommendations of the evaluation will inform São Tomé and Príncipe's new

country strategic plan, expected to begin in 2024. In addition to the Centre of Excellence, the ERG involved the WFP office in São Tomé and Príncipe, members of the government and UN partner agencies (FAO, ILO, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO).



Photo: WFP/Samantha Reinders

1.2 Promotion of partnerships



Photo: WFP/Brazil

SIDE EVENT AT CFS

On October 12th, the World Food Programme's (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil hosted a side event as part of the 50th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The webinar brought together experts from the Centre of Excellence, WFP, FAO, the Brazilian Fund for Education Development (FNDE), the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the WFP in Lesotho, and the Government of Angola to discuss digital solutions and successful experiences in school meals. The agenda included a presentation of the Virtual Study Visit: Brazil, developed by the Centre of Excellence in partnership with the Brazilian government. This Virtual Visit allows participants to delve into the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE). The session also featured presentations from countries that have recently engaged in digital South-South cooperation activities with Brazil, including Angola and Lesotho.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AND FAO

The WFP Centre of Excellence and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) joined forces to contribute to the process initiated with the launch of the School Meals Coalition. This initiative's goal was to strengthen countries' capacities in home-grown school feeding (HGSF), particularly through connections between agriculture, local food and smallholder farmers, encouraging inclusive purchases and short supply chains to promote adequate nutrition.

Training workshops are among the core activities of the collaboration between FAO and the Centre of Excellence. In these virtual training sessions, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Guyana, Benin, and Brazil had the opportunity to present their experiences and share challenges with participants from 26 countries, jointly discussing strategies and tools to develop home-grown school feeding programmes.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AND THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK

As a follow-up to the work with the Technical University of Denmark DTU Skylab FoodLab on joint research that could potentially support the Mbala Pinda initiative – a project involving a locally produced traditional cassava snack that empowers women and ensures food producer groups are financially sustainable — three master students developed a report with suggestions on how

to optimize and ensure food safety in this project. In addition, two master's students related the production of adequate starter culture to preserve cassava by reducing pH, detoxifying cyanogenic glycosides, and deactivating pathogens. The report was sent to WFP's Country Office in Congo and a virtual event aimed at discussing the results and feedback was held in February.



PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AND PUC-RIO

The World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence in Brazil and the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) signed a partnership to work together in conducting research and producing knowledge for the real challenges and opportunities experienced by countries assisted by the Centre of Excellence. The goal is to engage students and promote graduate research in areas such as the impact of school-meal programmes, food and nutrition security in vulnerable populations, food systems, and rural development.

Within the scope of this partnership, the Centre of Excellence taught a class on food security for the professional master's in international policy analysis and management of the PUC-Rio Institute of International Relations (IRI) Graduate programme. The classes explored key issues related to food security policy through case

studies and discussions with experts. Another activity under this partnership was the elaboration of a capstone project, i.e., the last project of an academic course. In 2022, the Centre of Excellence and these students explored the cross-cutting gender approach in promoting food and nutrition security with an emphasis on school feeding programmes, considering WFP's new Gender Policy. In order to further deepen this project, on October 6th, the Centre of Excellence promoted a workshop with strictu sensu graduate students with the participation of expert Elizabeth Burgessims, Senior Gender Advisor at the World Food Programme (WFP) office in Rome, and Renata Leite from the UN Women team. During the session, the students were able to exchange with experts in the area, promote the topic in an academic environment, and give more subsidies for the research conducted.



PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENTS, NGOS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In 2022, the WFP Centre of Excellence carried out a series of activities with private partners, NGOs, and national, state, and municipal governments, mainly linked to themes such as sustainable agriculture, social development, and fighting hunger and food waste. There are more than 50 partnerships with NGOs, governments and the private sector aimed at increasing the visibility of WFP project results, creating models of good practices and sharing them with other countries, as well as strengthening a network of partners who work together to develop sustainable solutions against hunger and waste and promote good nutrition for small farmers. Among the activities developed, a partnership between the Centre of Excellence, Google Brazil and the NGO Ação da Cidadania was formed to create a tool within Google Maps that helps institutions that support people in situations of social vulnerability to find food distribution points and free meals – the solidarity kitchens.

In addition, a protocol was signed with the municipality of Osasco, with support from iFood, to promote the implementation of municipal school gardens and prepare a manual on such gardens for managers. This work aims to support the development of food supply and security policies; encourage urban food production and technical collaboration between food and nutrition security programmes and services; and support the activities and techniques for planting gardens in schools that are part of the Municipal Public Network. The idea is to make students aware of the importance of vegetables and their nutritional value, change their perception of vegetables, and teach about soil fertilization. School gardens, when led by students themselves, function as a space for learning, recreation, leisure, environmental protection, food and nutrition security, and connection with agroecology, smallholder farming, and the school community. This is a direct result of the Nurture the Future project guidelines, and we hope it will serve as an example for the thousands of municipalities in Brazil that have not yet implemented school gardens. This also represents an example of how public and private sectors, together with the United Nations, can join efforts to reach sustainable solutions to fight hunger and promote healthy eating habits, to guarantee a better future to our children.

Together with the Brazilian Association of Supermarkets (ABRAS), the Centre of Excellence advanced important results in the 2nd National Supply Chain ESG forum. The Forum represents an annual programme that brings together sector leaders, businesses, and government authorities in a multilateral and collaborative debate on the main strategic, economic, market, institutional, and regulatory challenges of the national supply chain.

In an effort to call on the private sector to take action to fight hunger and reduce waste, the Centre of Excellence has also joined forces with the UN Global Compact, in particular on the Sustainable Agribusiness Platform. The Action for Sustainable Agribusiness Platform develops activities and projects guided by the Business Principles for Food and Agriculture (PEAAs) and related SDGs, in particular SDG 2 (zero hunger and sustainable agriculture) and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production). Its main objective is to address the challenge of ensuring food security aligned with sustainable production practices in Brazil and the world.



Photo: WFP/Vincent Tremeau

INNOVATION FOR TRACEABILITY OF LOCAL PURCHASES FROM SMALLHOLDER FARMING

At the end of 2022, the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence in Brazil and the WFP Regional Bureau in Panama established a partnership to develop and implement a pilot tracing system for local food purchases from smallholder farmers. The system will make it possible to identify smallholder farmers who provide food for the WFP in the Americas. This proposal is part of the Centre of Excellence's scope to use the Brazilian experience of local procurement, associating expertise with the WFP's Local and Regional Food Procurement Policy (LRFPP), established in 2019. The economic dynamics provided by this policy's

implementation strengthens value chains and livelihoods of smallholder farmers. It is a strategy for visibility and expansion of the impact that local purchases generate in the productive and economic context of countries where WFP purchases will be executed.

In October, technical meetings and visits to public procurement bodies were held in the Federal District to enrich the proposal to build the system. In November, a concept note was prepared on the topic with possible proposals, considering the Brazilian food supply experiences.

MULTISECTORAL COORDINATION AND STAKEHOLDER MOBILIZATION

The WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger carries out partnerships through South-South Cooperation with countries on the African continent (Benin, Mozambique, and Tanzania) and Latin America (Colombia and Peru). Collaboration takes place through coordination and facilitation of regional networks, national and international policy dialogue, multisectoral coordination, and mobilization of partner actors. This cooperation takes place through two projects: Beyond Cotton (African countries) and Nurture the Future (Latin American countries). In 2022, the Centre of Excellence's Projects team carried out actions for agriculture, water supply,

food and nutrition education, and attention to childhood obesity with partner countries.

It is important to highlight that the Centre of Excellence is a signatory of the National Commitment to stop the advance of childhood obesity in Brazil, coordinated by the Brazilian Ministry of Health. The partners meet quarterly and the Centre of Excellence, in addition to actively participating in all forums convened, was also one of the first partners to present its actions, which were published in a collective Bulletin to record a compilation of the collegiate's initiatives.

1.3 Advocacy services

SCHOOL FEEDING FORUM IN COLOMBIA

The 9th edition of the Regional School Feeding Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean took place in Barranquilla, Colombia. The event was organized by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the school meals unit to learn from the Colombian government. Technical discussions were promoted on topics such as the importance of access to quality education, school feeding as a factor of change for development of human capital, the importance of equity in education, and benefits and opportunities associated with school-meal programmes. The Centre of Excellence moderated the session on the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in improving governance systems and school meals management in the region.



ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT WITH WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN CHINA

The WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil also held events in collaboration with the other two WFP Centres of Excellence – the Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China and the Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM).

With CERFAM, events took place in February, June, and July. The first was organized by the Government of Senegal, the WFP Country Office in Senegal, and CERFAM. This event focused on experiences and best practices to ensure funding for school meals in African countries. The Centre of Excellence highlighted the work carried out in collaboration with several partners, including Senegal.

The second event, which took place in June, was co-organized by the WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China, the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil, and CERFAM. It focused on nutrition, school meals, and introducing innovative approaches to digitized and transformative school

feeding programming in China, Armenia, and Zambia.

Finally, the third event was organized by the Ministry of Education of Senegal, the WFP Country Office in Senegal, and CERFAM. The event highlighted the knowledge and experiences exchanged between Senegal and several countries with innovative practices and successful home-grown school feeding models, notably Niger, Benin, Nigeria, and Ghana, including institutions such as CERFAM and the Centres of Excellence in China and Brazil. The WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil also supported the participation of the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE), which showed the country's successful experience in school feeding.

In addition, a seminar on South-South digital cooperation was held in partnership with the WFP Centre of Excellence in China in April. The seminar brought together WFP experts, Chinese government representatives, and academics who discussed the role of digital solutions for the ongoing work of South-South Cooperation.

EVENTS IN PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES



In November, representatives from Brazil, Angola, Cape Verde, Timor-Leste, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, and São Tomé and Príncipe participated in two technical meetings on school feeding in Portuguese-speaking countries. The events were promoted by the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil, in partnership with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE) and was attended by the Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM). The first meeting focused on nutrition and the second one focused on home-grown school feeding. During the events, countries were able to present successful policies, programmes, and initiatives that were implemented locally; discuss challenges; learn from other experiences; and share ideas on nutritional aspects of school-meal programmes and procurement from smallholder farming.

NICARAGUA VIRTUAL FORUM ON SCHOOL FEEDING AND HEALTHY HABITS

In October, the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil participated in the first edition of the Forum on School Feeding and Healthy Habits, promoted by the Ministry of Education of Nicaragua through the Integral School Nutrition programme. The webinar highlighted the progress and challenges in school feeding, school gardens, and the

promotion of healthy eating habits that contribute to students' attendance, permanence, and continuous learning in school, also involving the community. The online event was attended by 1,200 protagonists at the national level, including government members, ministry officials, pedagogical advisors, and students' mothers and fathers.

GSSD

In September, the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil held an online event to present its Virtual Exchanges methodology and share lessons learned from the Brazilian experience in providing remote assistance for school meals. The webinar was part of the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo 2022. GSSD Expo is an annual global event organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) with the aim of showcasing the best, most innovative examples of evidence-based development solutions/initiatives and local solutions in developing countries around the world in collaboration with United Nations agencies,

governments, donors, and other partners.

The side event's agenda included remarks by David Kaatrud, Director of the WFP Humanitarian and Development Division, and Daniel Balaban, Director of the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil. The technical presentations addressed opportunities and challenges in the use of digital tools for South-South Cooperation and innovative solutions guided by COVID-19 to strengthen face-to-face development work. The list of speakers included experts from the WFP Centre of Excellence, Brazil, Lesotho, Angola, and Ethiopia.

ONLINE EVENT IN PERU

In October, the World Food programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger Brazil participated in the panel “Public Purchases of Food from Smallholder Farming”, which was part of the X Week of Social Inclusion – Fighting Hunger, Sustainable Development, and

Expansion of Coverage: Towards a Comprehensive Social Policy, promoted by the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (Midis) of Peru, and which also celebrated 11 years of the institution.

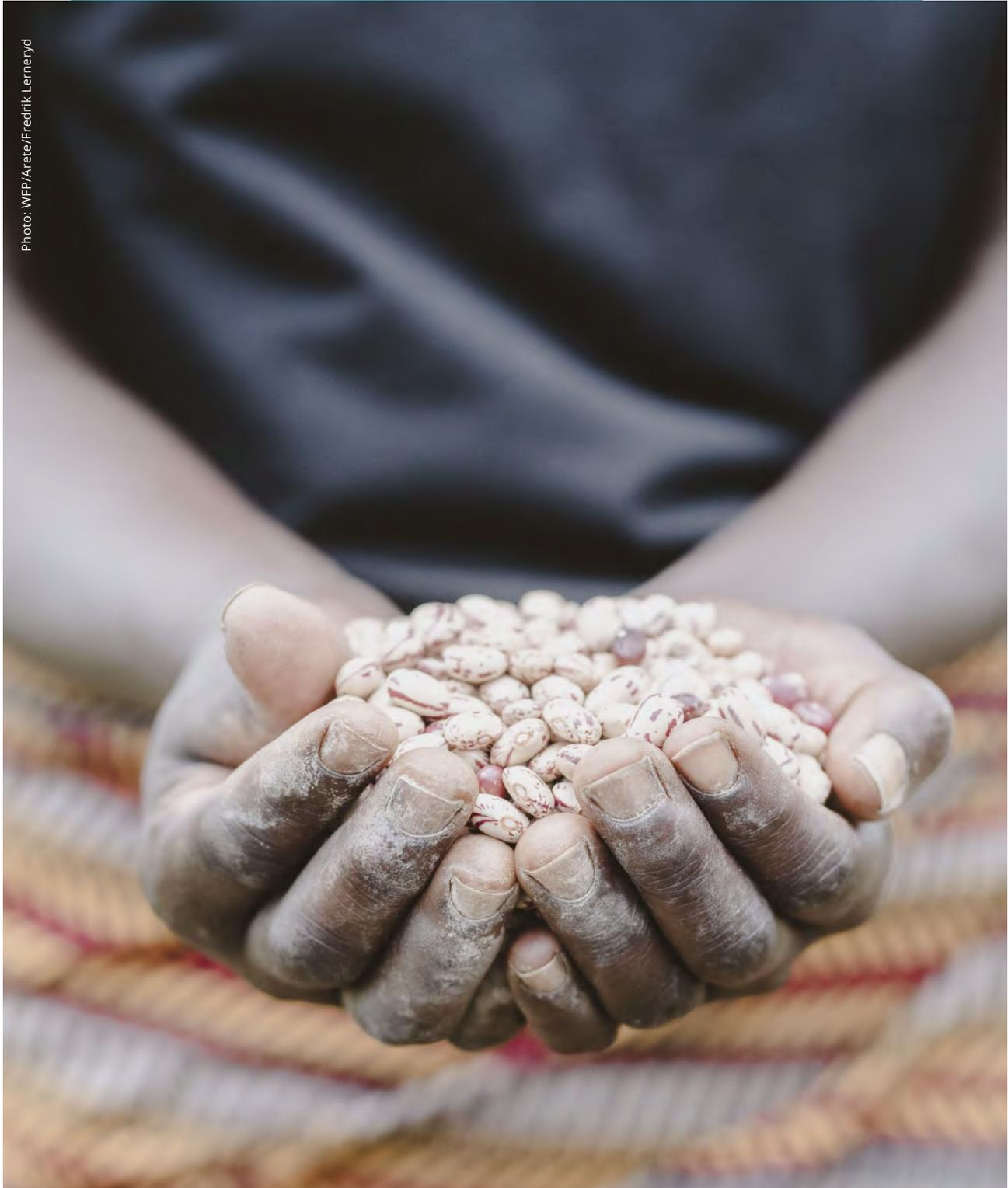


Photo: WFP/Arete/Fredrik Lerneryd

STUDY VISIT AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The Government of Sierra Leone participated in the “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil” in March. Some 37 participants from various sectors responsible for implementing home-grown school feeding and civil society organizations gathered in Freetown, while WFP officials and district government officials, as well as experts from Brazil and Sierra Leone, participated online. The objective of this South-South Cooperation initiative involving Brazil and Sierra Leone is to share the countries’ experiences with

home-grown school feeding to strengthen the African country’s current model and prepare it for scale-up. The “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil” is a joint initiative of the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE). It aims to show the successful Brazilian experience with the National School Feeding programme (PNAE) to cooperating countries.

BRAZILIAN COTTON CONGRESS

The Brazilian Cotton Congress in Salvador, Bahia, was attended by a delegation composed of 14 representatives of the Beyond Cotton countries, representatives of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), and the Centre of Excellence’s technical team. Participation in the Congress resulted in exchange of knowledge and experiences between countries involved in the project and promoted debates and discussions of technical, social, political, and cultural content in the production and nutrition fields. At the time, representatives visited the Agricultural Cooperative of the Northern Coast of Bahia to learn about the processes of selling food to institutional programmes and to the international market qualified by the Fair Trade certification, a relevant theme to the country project activities. In the same trip, they visited the Teacher Alita

Ribeiro de Araújo Soares Municipal School, considered a role model of implementation of local purchases for the National School Feeding programme (PNAE).

It was also possible to visit a comprehensive health centre in a vulnerable area of the city of Salvador and a pharmacy of natural remedies to demonstrate and discuss the possible dialogue between civil society organizations, public education and health agencies, and universities in the promotion of nutrition-sensitive agriculture and income generation for small farmers. In this context, country representatives were able to raise questions about how the intersectoral relations work, especially regarding financing, standardization and continuity of the actions presented.

VIRTUAL EXCHANGE SESSION ON INSTITUTIONAL PURCHASES

In September, a virtual meeting with representatives of the WFP Country Office in Benin and the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil served as a space to discuss questions regarding the implementation of

the National School Feeding programme (PNAE). The country’s goal is to gradually increase the supply of local food in school meals and the Centre of Excellence has played a role of advisor at that meeting.



Photo: WFP/Brazil

ETHIOPIA: VIRTUAL AND FACE-TO-FACE STUDY VISIT TO BRAZIL

In May, the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil promoted the “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil” for a delegation of the Government of Ethiopia. Representatives of the WFP Country Office in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian government at national and regional levels, and NGO partner Save the Children, attended the event in addition to representatives of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE), adding up to 73 participants on the first day and 52 on the second. The Government of Ethiopia is currently committed to transforming the country’s agricultural sector, especially its school meals approach, through appropriate policies and programmes. With the aim of eliminating hunger and malnutrition, the country hopes to accelerate commercialization, establish stable networks for farmers, and strengthen cooperatives.

After the Virtual Study Visit held in May, a delegation of 16 representatives of the Ethiopian government carried out a one-week field visit to Brasília in June. The delegation came to Brazil to learn about the Brazilian

school-meals programme, especially its nutrition and rural development components. On the first day, the delegation was welcomed at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for an opening session. Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply; the WFP Centre of Excellence; ABC; FNDE; and the Embassy of Ethiopia in Brazil participated.

The group also met with the General Coordination of Food and Nutrition of the Ministry of Health, with the National Supply Company (CONAB), and with the Secretariat of Smallholder Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, they made external visits to the Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Company of the Federal District (EMATER) in the Planaltina region, where the delegation learned details of the aid programme for small farmers and the law that mandates that 30% of the food purchased for school meals must come from smallholder farming. The delegation also visited Ceasa-DF (Federal District food supply centre) and a food bank that receives and distributes food to 161 local institutions.

ANGOLA: VIRTUAL STUDY VISIT

In August, representatives of the Angolan government and the WFP country office participated in the “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil”. The methodology of the visit includes, in addition to the opening and closing virtual workshops, a series of videos and written materials that simulate an immersion in the Brazilian National School Feeding Programme (PNAE). The sessions brought together technical PNAE teams and Angolan experts, who discussed specificities of the Brazilian model, including topics such as the PNAE legal basis; financing model; implementation; community participation; and smallholder farming participation.



Photo: WFP/Brazil

PARTICIPATION IN THE 23RD GLOBAL CHILD NUTRITION FORUM (GCNF)

Experts from the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE) went to Benin to participate in the 23rd Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) in October. The Forum is an annual conference that supports countries in developing and implementing sustainable school feeding programmes. In 2022, the event brought together more than 25 participants from 44 countries, including government officials and multilateral institutions, NGOs, the private sector, and academia.

As part of the technical programme, the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil organized a workshop to promote a discussion on initiatives for local procurement from smallholder farming for school meals. During the session, participants discussed what they learned about this implementation modality, which is in different stages of scale-up in each country. In addition, representatives from Brazil participated in the plenary session to share experiences, along with representatives from Malawi, Guatemala, Finland, Bhutan, and Burundi.

IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION



Photo: WFP

The Mozambican government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and with support from the World Bank, is implementing actions to promote local procurement for public policies. The project team was invited to collaborate through discussions of possible ways to implement local purchases in Mozambique, bringing proposals based on other countries' experiences, such as Brazil.

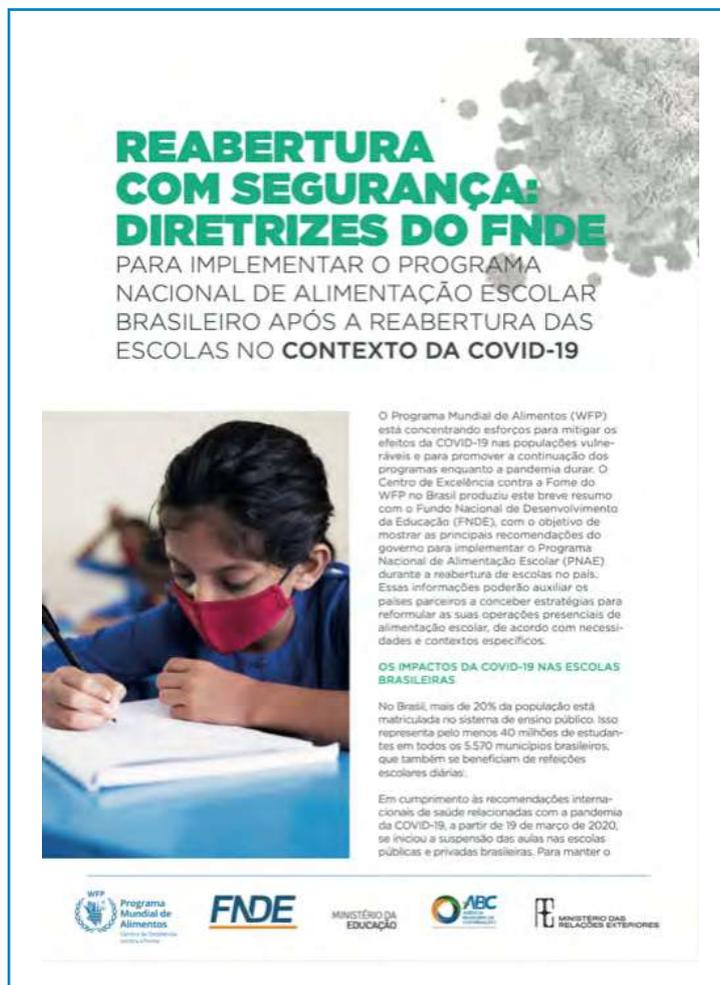
1.4 Knowledge Management Services

PUBLICATION: PROVIDING SCHOOL MEALS SAFELY

With the onset of the pandemic in 2020, public and private schools in Brazil suspended classes throughout the country as part of COVID-19 prevention actions.

To share the Brazilian government's main recommendations for safely resuming the provision of school meals in loco, the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil produced, in partnership with the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE), a summary of the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) implementation strategy when schools reopened in the country.

The document is based on FNDE publications and contains information that can help partner countries create strategies to redesign their on-site school feeding operations according to specific needs and contexts. The publication is part of the partnership between the Centre of Excellence and the Brazilian government through FNDE and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC).



DATA COLLECTION AND EVIDENCE BUILDING (CASES): STEP-BY-STEP LOCAL PURCHASES FOR HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING (HGSF)

From Brazil's decades-long accumulated experience with implementing a school-meal programme with the condition of buying at least 30% of its food directly from smallholder farmers, the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil identified a systemic demand within the various partnerships and interactions with institutional partners. For this reason, the Centre of Excellence's team of experts started a complete systematization of the procurement process carried out by Brazil.

For this systematization, data were collected directly from farmers, associations registered for distribution

to schools, technical assistance and rural extension companies, nutritionists, and managers of schools where school-meal programmes are carried out.

Based on the records, the Centre of Excellence is preparing a series of thematic materials that will be launched in 2023 on local purchases from smallholder farming for school meals, which will directly subsidize projects in implementation and articulations with counterparts interested in the theme and the successful Brazilian experience.



Nurture the Future

Within the framework of the Nurture the Future project, the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger Brazil, associated with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), has been consulting on gathering information about coping with the multiple burden of malnutrition in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. The release of the compiled data is scheduled for the first half of 2023.

Malnutrition is linked to deficiency, excess, or imbalance in an individual's consumption of calories or nutrients (vitamins and minerals). It can be present in a situation of malnutrition or overweight/obesity. This clinical condition has multiple factors and is associated with synergistic determinants of malnutrition, i.e. the overlap of biological, social, environmental, and behavioural factors that direct the individual to poor nutrition. It is worth noting that the multiple burden of malnutrition can happen through a domino effect in a family's environment, since aspects such as income, education, and food insecurity are transversal to the composition of families.

With this perspective, the interaction between Brazil and partner countries resulted in the participation of the Centre of Excellence's Projects and Communication technical teams in the Brazilian Nutrition Congress (CONBRAN) in Maceió, in the state of Alagoas. The event's

general theme was "Nutrition in different phases of life: challenges for the promotion of Health and Food and Nutrition Security". It discussed strategies for prevention and control of the multiple burden of malnutrition in the three countries and jointly presented materials such as recommendations for consumption of fruits and vegetables. The presentations took place in hybrid format with participation of representatives from Peru's Ministry of Health and Colombia's Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

In November 2022, the Centre of Excellence team also held a technical meeting with representatives from Colombia and Peru to discuss the multiple burden of malnutrition and present the different actions developed by partner countries in the fight against childhood obesity in their territories. A few actions were highlighted at the meeting, such as the relevance of inter-sectoral articulation, surveillance of nutritional status through local databases, increased physical activity and food and nutrition education in schools, all strategies presented by partner countries to mitigate the impacts of weight gain among children and adolescents.



Beyond Cotton

The Beyond Cotton project compiled a report on the local productive arrangement of the Serras Gerais, in the state of Minas Gerais, focused on good practices for institutional purchases in Brazil. The report was divided into five topics that cover cotton and food production, governance, trading smallholder farmers' products, public procurement, municipal management, and the context of local productive arrangements. Good practices were documented and will support the development of policy briefs and thematic workshops with the countries participating in the project.

One product of Brazilian good practices in the Beyond Cotton project is the collection of information, systematization, and elaboration of informative documents regarding local purchases for institutional markets carried out in the Federal District. Between the months of October and November, visits were made to producer associations and public bodies that acquire food from smallholder farming through institutional food purchase programs. The experiences were systematized and will serve as subsidy to design booklets on local purchases, which will be disseminated to countries under the scope of the Beyond Cotton Project.

DOCUMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION OF GOOD PRACTICES

Within the Nurture the Future Project, the publication “Recommendations for increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables” was launched. It aims to guide and mobilize health sector managers to mediate integrated, comprehensive, effective, and intersectoral actions

that promote interconnected policies for production, processing, distribution, and marketing of fruits and vegetables, and that value promoting the population's health and food and nutrition security (FNS) above all.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

In the second half of 2022, representatives of the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil and cooperating institutions executed two technical missions to Tanzania

and Mozambique. The missions' goal was to carry out annual operational plan activities and to monitor actions previously implemented and developed by local partners.

2

RESULTS



RESULTS 2

Photo: WFP/Brazil



In 2022, the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil was successful in engaging with countries and supporting them in different ways. With more than ten years of experience in South-South Cooperation and in sharing best practices, the Centre of Excellence has been providing technical assistance in an innovative way, considering the needs of each country, and adapting them to the global political and economic context. Remote assistance through digital tools has proven to be fast, flexible, and cost-effective.

The “Virtual Study Visit: Brazil”, for example, benefited three countries this year (Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, and Angola) and was able to bring together an extensive number of participants with a simplified, low-cost organization process. While a face-to-face study visit with a 6-person delegation can cost an average of USD 30,000, a virtual visit can welcome a much larger group at zero cost to the delegation. Cost-effectiveness can also be applied to other types of services and in combination with face-to-face support. Hiring a consultant for 6 months to work on a school feeding policy can cost about three

times more than the work performed by the staff of the Centre of Excellence, combining face-to-face missions and remote work. In addition, virtual visits allow a more flexible assistance format, adapted to local dynamics and the most immediate needs of partner countries.

In general, remote assistance within South-South Cooperation has proven to be a powerful tool to support countries that want to exchange information and offer a non-costly option at the same time, an important advantage amid a global recession with growing demand for sustainable development and humanitarian investments.

In 2022, these exchanges accelerated the joint work to find solutions to common challenges. The two virtual Portuguese-language events focused on nutrition and home-grown school feeding resulted in the approximation of countries with the same cultural identity in discussions about common challenges and good practices for supporting similar contexts.

COUNTRY RESULTS

Among the results of assistance to countries and South-South cooperation efforts throughout the year, the development of the annual operational plan of the Beyond Cotton Project in Tanzania, Benin and Mozambique stands out.

Benin

Benin had its country project signed in 2021. Throughout 2022, several programmatic activities were developed, with emphasis on smallholder farmers that produce cotton and food crops that carried out a direct sale of 50 tons of corn for the National School Feeding Programme. The programme is run by the Government of Benin and the WFP Country Office in more than 5,000 schools. This historical purchase was evidence-building for the implementation of the Beyond Cotton project in the country.

In addition, the project brought technical support to local extension workers to establish community seed banks, focusing on cereal harvest and post-harvest care, preparation of contracts, and marketing.

Regarding farmers benefited by the project, the main challenges and opportunities for implementing community seed banks were identified. There were also actions aimed at nutrition and food safety that resulted in a training guide on the quality of animal and plant products for the management of aflatoxins and ochratoxins; harvest and post-harvest of corn, rice, and beans; a catalogue of food practices by region; and school gardens.



Photo: WFP/Brazil

Tanzania

Participant of the Beyond Cotton project, Tanzania had its country-project document signed in July 2022. During the technical mission in November 2022, the project team carried out a diagnosis and evaluation of the cotton and food production capacity, with criteria based on local productive, social, and cultural conditions. This diagnosis resulted a pedagogical plan for the development of technical capacities of local extension workers involved in the project. A biweekly online workshop was taught by the Federal University of Campina Grande (UFMG), which had direct translation from Portuguese to Swahili and covered different agricultural topics, such as crop

phenology, cultural treatments, soil preparation, health, and plant nutrition.

In addition to technical issues identified, a set of low-cost technologies was implemented to increase productivity, reduce work time, and better harness the rainy season. The Beyond Cotton project implemented the construction of rain gauges to measure and record rainfall, and small planters that allowed a reduction of worktime from 14 days to three hours, with the advantage of adopting sustainable practices such as zero tillage.



Photo: WFP/Brazil

Within the scope of food and nutrition security actions, three workshops were held in the participating districts with the presence of 450 farmers, which resulted in a diagnosis of the food and nutrition security in the districts.

Based on the work on the ground, rainwater collection

measures were implemented in 16,000-liter cisterns, which will reduce the time spent in water collection (three to four hours) towards self-sufficiency. This will allow children to have water available for consumption in schools and to irrigate school gardens built under the project to provide fresh and nutritious food for school meals.



Photo: WFP

Mozambique

In Mozambique, an online training session for 60 extension technicians from the District Services of Economic Activities (SDAEs) was conducted in partnership with the Federal University of Lavras (UFPA). The training was aimed at developing agricultural and nutritional capacities, such as pest control and soil preparation. In the second half of 2022, the Result Demonstration Fields (CDRs) of cotton cultivation and intercropped food crops were installed. In this intervention, CDRs were established around model areas that are serving as a basis for the practice and technology transfer of integrated production of cotton and associated crops. This allows the beneficiary producers to enter communities of practice (CoP). In addition, technicians from the Manica Higher Polytechnic Institute, partners of the Beyond Cotton project, can develop other training and field activities.

3

INTERNAL WORK



INTERNAL WORK 3

Within the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil, translations are carried out by a specialist who uses CAT (Computer-Assisted Translation) tools.

In the Centre of Excellence, this work encompasses the areas of international cooperation, public policies, government programmes, legal agreements, memoranda etc. – which produces documents filled with acronyms and terms specific to a country or agency. Given all these areas of knowledge involved, the unit’s terminology glossary has been under construction for three years and currently has 125 terms in English and their equivalent in Portuguese.

In 2022, the Programme unit had more than 50 documents translated or revised, including publications, communications for the Centre’s partners in the Government of Brazil, support materials for online events, and video subtitling. One of the standout translations was the tool used by the National Education Development Fund (FNDE) to design school menus, named Plan, with the aim of disseminating information and strengthening the definition of a strategy for designing menus for the countries supported by the Centre of Excellence. In addition, the Virtual Study Visit was also translated into French, so that it can be more accessible for Francophone countries.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Brazilian Government

The WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil is a partnership between the Brazilian government and the WFP. In 2022, we maintained and further strengthened our ties with institutional partners, especially the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE) in Brazil.

In the humanitarian field, a partnership executed alongside ABC, the Centre of Excellence provided direct or indirect assistance (via interagency agreements with UNOPS and PAHO) to 17 beneficiary partners of Brazilian humanitarian cooperation: Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, Palestine, Ecuador, Yemen, Lebanon, East-Timor, São Tomé and Príncipe, Afghanistan, Philippines, Algeria, Madagascar, Malawi, and Kiribati. Humanitarian donations consisted of personal protective equipment against COVID-19; high-quality alcohol gel; RT-PCR tests and medicines; water purifiers and dehydrated

food; support for telecommunication services in places affected by natural disasters; and food.

This articulation with the Brazilian government is one of the main axes of the unit’s strategic planning. We highlight major Brazilian partners, such as the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ABC), the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply. The partnerships are executed in Project Monitoring Committees (CAPs), responsible for carrying out strategic planning, governance, and project monitoring.

Still in the Brazilian sphere, we point out important actors with whom we have strategic actions: participation in activities of the Parliamentary Front for Food and Nutrition Security, the Federal District Regional Alliance for healthy and adequate food, and the District Forum for the promotion of adequate and healthy food in schools.

WFP HEADQUARTERS

In the context of supporting national governments and promoting partnerships, the Centre of Excellence has worked closely with the School Meals Coalition.

The School Meals Coalition is an initiative led by Member States, launched in 2021 at the Food Systems Summit with the aim of ensuring that every child in the world receives a healthy meal at school by 2030. To achieve this goal, the Coalition outlined three objectives: (1) re-establish effective school-meal programmes and repair what was lost during the pandemic; (2) reach the most vulnerable in low- or lower-middle-income countries, which were not being reached even before the pandemic; (3) improve the quality and efficiency of existing school-meal programmes in all countries.

The Coalition has been gaining surprising support and momentum. So far, nearly 80 countries and over 80 partners have pledged to work together to achieve the Coalition's goals. The gravity centre of the Coalition is governments and national action. Governments are encouraged to develop national commitments, specifically outlining how their country will increase or improve its school-meal programmes: financially, at scale, or in quality.

DIALOGUE WITH NATIONAL OFFICES

In the context of the ongoing preparation to update the WFP policy on South-South Cooperation and as part of the consultation process, the South-South Cooperation Unit and the Centre of Excellence facilitated two dialogue sessions with field colleagues who are directly implementing South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) projects in August 2022.

Participating countries covered the respective scope of the six regional offices, with colleagues from Rwanda,

The WFP acts as a Secretariat for the Coalition through increasing the capacity of the School-based Programmes Division in its Rome headquarters. WFP supports coalition member states and stakeholders by convening them through bimonthly meetings, facilitating partnerships, updating them on recent efforts and progress through a newsletter, and connecting them to the different initiatives.

The Centre of Excellence joined the Coalition to work toward its goals by aggregating best practices, information, and technical assistance to foster better coordination, political will, and engagement needed to create change through advocacy. The Centre of Excellence also leverages the Coalition as a unique global platform to show the Brazilian national programme to the world and facilitate peer learning.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil has been working in constant partnership with the WFP's South-South Cooperation and school feeding units in Rome. Through regular meetings and joint activities, the work of the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil is aligned with the WFP headquarters.

Armenia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, El Salvador, Peru, Dominican Republic, Togo, Chad, Zambia, and Zimbabwe in attendance. These country offices were represented by colleagues who act as focal points for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, either in programme units such as school feeding, Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS), emergency preparedness, nutrition, social protection, or in partnerships and communication units.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Centre of Excellence's IT Department is constantly improving security and utilization of enterprise tools by its employees. In the last year, it has partially renovated its technological range with more comprehensive equipment and solutions. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Centre of Excellence has expanded remote technical support to employees, bringing more agility to its solutions. The implementation of the digital signature tool has also been expanded to all employees for greater agility and in accordance with "Green Office" guidelines.

The IT department worked together with HR, Administration and Procurement Departments to improve the Brasília office's internal processes. Regarding employee safety, internal data and procedures are being updated with the participation of all employees. As a result, we have better responses to our partners' demands and more efficient implementation of activities foreseen in the mandate of this office.



97 articles published



127 graphic and visual materials created



54,000 pageviews



48 press queries

THISWEEK

6,500 +

clicks on the newsletter content

97

new subscribers to the distribution list

Reach of social media posts:

490,000



[Instagram](#)

37% increase in followers



[LinkedIn](#)

+ **3,000** followers

COMMUNICATION

In 2022, there were important collaborative activities with big national personalities who helped the WFP Centre of Excellence's digital platforms to gain greater visibility. Focusing on the audiovisual format and aiming at the dissemination of content through Instagram Reels, our social network profile saw an increase in the number of followers and stood out as a relevant channel to reach the public.

Our four social media profiles (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook) had a reach of 490,000. Instagram saw a 37% increase in followers over the year, while LinkedIn amassed more than 3,000 new followers during the same time. Part of this expressive and unprecedented engagement results from the alliance with several chefs and digital influencers, especially for their performance in the World Food Day 2022 campaign. The event, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, was attended by Regina Tchelly and had great prominence in the media by illuminating Christ the Redeemer in celebration of the cause. In social networks, the #Cook4climate campaign received support from Helena Rizzo, Bel Coelho, and Rita Lobo, celebrity chefs of great national reach. The unit worked together with the Regional Office in Panama and the marketing team at the headquarters, as well as partner agencies.

Another highlight of the year was the work done with Pelé. From a collaboration between the Pelé Foundation and the WFP, a joint Instagram post addressed the importance of proper and healthy nutrition for children. It generated a record reach, with more than 66,000 likes and 1,400,000 views. After his passing, Pelé was also honoured on social networks, in the weekly newsletter This Week, on the WFP and UN Brazil websites, in addition to WFPGo – always achieving great visibility.

On the UN Brazil website, content about the WFP was also highlighted, totalling 100 publications, with an average of 150 views per post. On UN Brazil's social networks, WFP content appeared 185 times with average views per post reaching 6,000.



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