



# South-South Quarterly Newsletter

July 2025

# Content

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

22nd UN High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation Session Champions Digital Equity and Sustainable Innovation .....	3
Strengthening SSTC: New South-South Connect Website .....	3
Announcing New Publication: SSTC Innovative Good Practices .....	4
Leveraging SSTC Opportunities for Climate Action in West and Central Africa .....	4

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

Strengthening China-Africa Cooperation for Smallholder Value Chain Development .....	5
China-Kenya Collaboration Brings Tomato Grafting Innovation to Smallholder Farmers .....	5
China's Experience Boosts Rural Transformation in Ethiopia .....	6

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

Jordan Participated in a Virtual Exchange on Brazil's National School Feeding Programme .....	7
Benin and Brazil Participated in a Technical Exchange as Part of the Beyond Cotton Project .....	7
The Republic of Congo and Brazil Participated in a Monitoring Mission for the Seeds for Tomorrow Project .....	8

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

African Day of School Feeding 2025 - A Decade of Nourishment: Celebrating the Past, Securing a Just Future .....	9
CERFAM CI Showcases African Good Practices at the N4G 2025 Summit .....	9
CERFAM CI Strengthens South-South Partnerships Through 'Healthy Diets 4 Africa' in Cameroon .....	9

## Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

Trinidad and Chile Exchange Lessons on Targeting in School Feeding .....	10
Colombia Advances Adaptive Social Protection Through Exchange with Peru .....	10
Cuba Advances Social Protection Through Regional Peer Learning .....	11
Belize Learns from the Guatemalan Experience in School Feeding .....	11

## Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Strengthening Home-Grown School Feeding in Senegal Through SSTC with Brazil .....	12
Fostering Integrated Risk Management in the Sahel Through AICRM Coordination Workshop in Dakar .....	12
Southern Cities Exchange Climate Resilience Strategies Through SSTC .....	13
Third Africa High-Level Forum on SSTC Promotes African Solutions .....	13
Ethiopia Strengthens Social Protection Systems Through a South-South Exchange with Kenya .....	14
Strengthening Shock-Responsive Social Protection Through a South-South Knowledge Exchange in Jordan .....	15
Advancing China-Africa Cooperation for Rice Value Chain Development .....	15

## Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

India Showcased Scalable Solutions for Global Food Security at the WFP Executive Board Exhibition .....	16
India Showcases SMART Warehousing Solution at a SSTC Regional Webinar .....	17
China Enhances Nutrition of Schoolchildren in the Kyrgyz Republic Through SSTC .....	17

# WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

## 22nd UN High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation Session Champions Digital Equity and Sustainable Innovation

In May, the 22nd session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation was convened at the UN HQ in New York, under the coordination of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

The event focused on the theme: "Accelerating the 2030 Agenda through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)", emphasizing the critical role of collaborative efforts in achieving sustainable development goals.

Over 65 delegations participated in the general debate, including representatives from the Group of 77 and China, Least Developed Countries, the Alliance of Small Island States, the Group of Like-Minded Middle-Income Countries, the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the European Union and the African Union.

An additional 20 representatives from UN entities, intergovernmental organizations, and accredited NGOs also contributed, reflecting a broad consensus on the importance of SSTC in addressing global challenges.

WFP represented by its New York Global Office, delivered a statement highlighting SSTC's role in strengthening national food security and nutrition agendas.

They showcased tangible outcomes achieved through WFP's network of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) and country offices (COs), underscoring the practical benefits of SSTC initiatives.

Delegates from Member States emphasized the need for enhanced institutional support, capacity building, and innovative financing, particularly for least developed countries and SIDS.

The thematic discussions spotlighted the transformative impact of digital public infrastructure, ethical artificial intelligence, and regionally adapted development strategies. Stakeholders called for deeper UN engagement, greater interregional collaboration, and strengthened support from UNOSSC.

With participation from over 100 countries and numerous international organizations, the session reaffirmed the solidarity of the Global South and the imperative of a more equitable international order. Delegates urged sustained efforts in data sharing, gender inclusion and the mobilization of technical and financial resources to accelerate sustainable development.

For more information on the session and its outcomes, visit the [UNOSSC official page](#).



## Strengthening SSTC: New South-South Connect Website

The SSTC Unit in Headquarters (HQ) is developing an external SSTC website with the support of the Ford Foundation. This digital knowledge platform responds to the growing demand from WFP colleagues for an overview of SSTC information at WFP as well as the WFP Executive Board member call to provide this information to an external audience.

The platform will facilitate the use of SSTC mechanisms and familiarize external stakeholders, such as governments, the private sector, other partners with the WFP's work on SSTC.

South-South Connect will be a dynamic hub of information, where countries and partners from around the world can access, learn and explore knowledge and resources on WFP-facilitated SSTC initiatives and provide visibility and clarity on WFP's SSTC partners.

The new website will include the WFP story of SSTC, a repository of information, country profile pages, news and more. The new website is planned to be launched in the upcoming months.

# WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

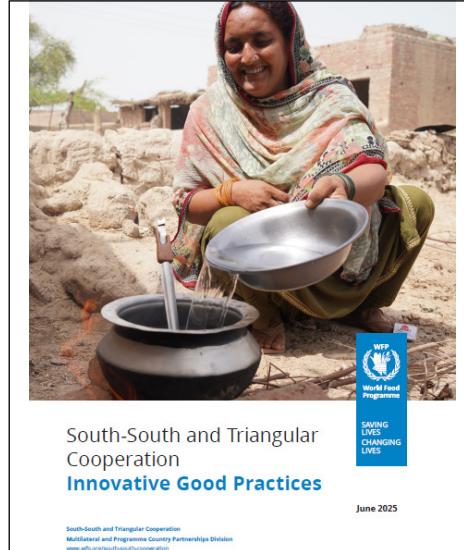
## Announcing New Publication: SSTC Innovative Good Practices

The SSTC Unit in HQ has launched the first edition of the [SSTC Innovative Good Practices publication!](#)

This edition showcases a range of innovative good practices implemented in 2024 across the Global South — from Smallholder Farmers' Support to School Meals, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Resilience, and more.

The practices span countries such as Bolivia, Mozambique, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Indonesia, as well as the South African region, with special highlights on innovative expertise from Namibia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and India.

This knowledge product reflects WFP's commitment to showcasing and leveraging SSTC innovative good practices to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



## Leveraging SSTC Opportunities for Climate Action in West and Central Africa

In April, WFP's Western and Central Africa Regional Office (WACARO), in collaboration with the SSTC Unit in HQ, finalized a [strategic mapping of SSTC opportunities](#) to advance climate action and food security in West and Central Africa.

Led by WACARO's Climate and Resilience Unit, the initiative aims to integrate SSTC into WFP's climate services while deepening government engagement. This initiative formed part of a broader landscape analysis of WFP's regional climate service offer, which included:

- An overview of WFP's climate-specific service offerings in the region;
- An analysis of national climate commitments;
- A stocktaking of WFP's climate service tools; and
- [Strategic recommendations](#) to guide the future direction of climate action in the region.

The mapping, based on a desk review conducted from February to March 2025, analyzed Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Country Strategic Plans (CSPs), and Annual Country Reports (ACRs).

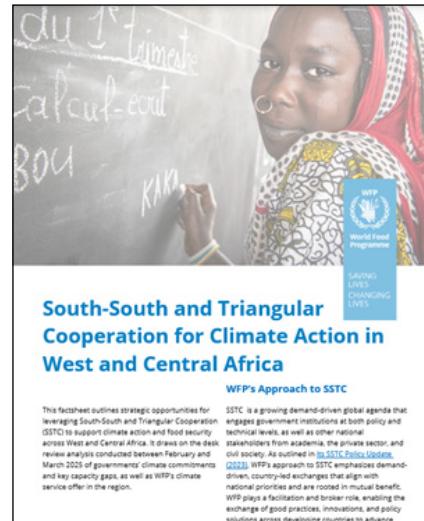
It identified key areas for peer learning, including climate risk financing in the Sahel, clean energy integration in school feeding programmes, and climate-resilient agriculture in The Gambia and other coastal countries.

Provider countries such as Brazil and China, and partners like the World Bank, Adaptation Fund, and Clean Cooking Alliance were identified to enable priority SSTC collaborations.

The initiative positions SSTC as a strategic tool to accelerate the completion of national commitments with strong government engagement for sustainable initiatives through mutual learning, institutional ownership, and resource mobilization.

Next steps include improving evidence-based information and dissemination related to climate action in the region, discussing with governments to confirm their interest, needs, gaps and priorities.

A regional webinar will be held to disseminate the findings. It will also present an opportunity for COs to discuss concrete ways to operationalize cross-country collaboration to support national climate adaptation priorities.



# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

### Strengthening China-Africa Cooperation for Smallholder Value Chain

In February, the WFP China CoE, with support from the Gates Foundation, hosted a two-day consultation in Changsha titled "Strengthening China-Africa Cooperation to Enhance African Smallholder Value Chain Development" as part of the [Rice Value Chain initiative](#).

The event brought together over 40 participants, including representatives from Chinese government agencies, NGOs and agricultural enterprises engaged in Africa.

Discussions focused on enhancing rice value chains through public-private partnerships, with an emphasis on tailoring agricultural technologies and machinery to African contexts. The meeting highlighted key insights from China's agricultural demonstration centres in Africa.

Mr. Zhao Bing, WFP China Country Director, emphasized strategies to ensure long-term project sustainability, including localized equipment selection and strengthened institutional coordination, to improve food security and rural productivity across the continent.

Moving forward, the Rice Value Chain initiative aims to deepen multi-stakeholder collaboration, expand proven models to countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, and advocate for policy alignment to foster sustainable SSTC in agriculture.



### China-Kenya Collaboration Brings Tomato Grafting Innovation to Smallholder Farmers

In March, the Nanjing Agricultural University (NAU) in collaboration with the WFP China CoE, launched a joint knowledge product that was developed based on NAU's project in Kenya. It shares China's tomato grafting<sup>1</sup> technology with Kenya.

This innovative technology combats bacterial diseases, strengthens disease resistance, and significantly increases tomato yields.

This technology helps Kenyan tomato farmers combat soil-borne diseases by combining disease-resistant roots with high-yielding tomato varieties. This offers smallholder farmers a cost-effective, sustainable solution to improve crop resilience and productivity.

The knowledge product provides a comprehensive guide covering the full grafting lifecycle: from selecting rootstocks and scions to grafting techniques and post-transplant care.

Field trials led by NAU experts in Nakuru County, Kenya, have demonstrated that grafted tomato plants demonstrate over 50% yield increases compared to traditional methods. This knowledge product is now available on the WFP China CoE Knowledge Sharing Platform [here](#).

By sharing this expertise, the initiative aims to build local capacity and improve the resilience and productivity of smallholder farming systems.



<sup>1</sup> Grafting is a horticultural technique where tissues from two different plants are joined to grow as a single plant.

# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

### China's Experience Boosts Rural Transformation in Ethiopia

In April, the Ethiopian Government conducted a SSTC learning visit to China to explore agricultural development and rural transformation strategies. The initiative was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China (MARA)-WFP Global Trust Fund.

The visit was facilitated by the WFP China CoE and included senior officials and consultants from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute. The delegation visited Beijing, Hebei, Jiangsu and Zhejiang Provinces.

Accompanied by representatives from China's agricultural system at various levels, the delegation conducted in-depth field visits to villages and family farms in Northern and Southern China, which offered a first-hand look at region-specific rural development models.

They also engaged in discussions with Chinese academic institutions, public sector agencies, and private enterprises.

They recognized the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration guided by top-level design in rural transformation.

China's rural development experiences, policy evolution, and best practices offer valuable lessons for Ethiopia's rural transformation policy formulation. The delegation also expressed interest in enhancing agricultural cooperation with China, particularly in commercial trade.

Building on this visit, Ethiopia aims to initiate policy and institutional reforms to revitalize its rural and agricultural sectors. The WFP China CoE will continue facilitating Ethiopia-China cooperation to translate lessons from this exchange into tangible outcomes.



Photo: WFP/China CoE

# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

### Jordan Participated in a Virtual Exchange on Brazil's National School Feeding Programme

In May, Jordan and Brazil held the second virtual exchange on Brazil's National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), as part of ongoing SSTC efforts.

The session brought together representatives from Brazil's National Fund for Education Development (FNDE), the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the WFP Brazil.

Various Jordanian stakeholders, including a Director of the Education Administration, a Director of the General Education Directorate, a Head of the School Nutrition and Health Department, a Director of the Accounts Directorate, a Head of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, a Programme Coordinator, Development Coordination Unit, a Financial Coordinator, Development Coordination Unit, and all members of the School Nutrition and Health Department technical teams also participated.

The exchange focused on key components of the PNAE model, including governance structures, financing mechanisms, legal frameworks, public procurement processes and the integration of family farming into school feeding systems.

Brazilian experts presented oversight tools and practical approaches used to manage and monitor the programme. Jordanian participants expressed strong interest in adapting elements of Brazil's model.

As a next step, partners will collaborate on developing a context-specific implementation roadmap for Jordan. This will be complemented by technical workshops and studies to explore how PNAE practices can be tailored to Jordan's educational and agricultural systems.



Photo: WFP/Rein Skulderud

### Benin and Brazil Participated in a Technical Exchange as Part of the Beyond Cotton Project

In May, Benin government representatives joined a five-day technical mission to Brazil. The mission is part of the [Beyond Cotton Project](#), a SSTC initiative between Brazil, Benin and WFP Brazil, supported by the Brazilian Cotton Institute (IBA) and ABC.

The mission aimed to enhance the exchange of experiences on Brazil's integrated approach to school feeding, family farming and food and nutrition security.

It included technical visits to schools, health centres, and family farming settlements, along with high-level meetings with Brazil's Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health, and Social Development.

The delegation learned about PNAE, which integrates food and nutrition education with purchases from family farmers, ensuring healthy meals for students and stable income for producers.

Representatives from Benin's Ministry of Agriculture and farmers' cooperatives highlighted how the Beyond Cotton Project is helping diversify production by integrating cotton with food crops for school meals.

The Federal University of Western Bahia (UFOB) contributed technical insights on syntropic agriculture and highlighted cultural connections between Bahia, Brazil and Benin.

The exchange concluded with discussions on the continuity of strategic actions to further strengthen collaboration between the countries in support of sustainable food systems.

As next steps, a coordination meeting will be held to define the possible extension of the project until September 2025 with the aim of completing field activities in agriculture and food and nutrition education.



Photo: WFP/Caroline Melo

# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

### The Republic of Congo and Brazil Participated in a Monitoring Mission for the Seeds for Tomorrow Project

In June, the Governments of the Republic of Congo and Brazil participated in a field monitoring mission in the Gamboma district, Plateaux of the Republic of Congo.

The initiative is part of the [Seeds for Tomorrow Project](#), implemented by the two governments jointly with the WFP Brazil, WFP Congo, UNOSSC, and funded through the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund).

The mission involved four schools and multiple producer cooperatives, aiming to evaluate the implementation of the home-grown school feeding programme using locally sourced food.

During the mission, the team assessed supply processes, analyzed purchase records and delivery reports, and identified logistical and operational challenges. Special attention was given to food quality, pricing and management.

A protocol on price, quality and quantity of local agricultural products was shared with stakeholders across three districts, fostering fair and inclusive purchasing practices, with prices negotiated jointly by schools and producers.

High-level officials from the Ministry of Preschool, Primary, Secondary, and Literacy Education (MEPPSA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (MAEP) as well as the WFP Project Coordinator and WFP Brazzaville Sub Office staff participated alongside school authorities and local farmers.

The joint engagement enabled real-time problem-solving and strategic planning for improved programme effectiveness.

This cross-sector collaboration through the Seeds for Tomorrow Project seeks to establish a sustainable, locally driven school feeding model that supports both quality education and community development.

The next steps of the project focus on the sharing of results and lessons learned from the Seeds for Tomorrow project. These will include the finalisation of manuals focused on school feeding and family farming, two missions of the Brazilian government and partners to the Republic of Congo to provide rural technical assistance to the government and cooperatives.



Photo: WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua

# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

### African Day of School Feeding 2025 - A Decade of Nourishment: Celebrating the Past, Securing a Just Future

CERFAM CI continues to lead efforts in advancing and driving SSTC to scale up good practices in school feeding across Africa. Learn more about its role in promoting sustainable solutions and amplifying impact at the African Day of School Feeding 2025 [here](#).

### CERFAM CI Showcases African Good Practices at the N4G 2025 Summit

In March, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, through CERFAM CI participated in the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, held in Paris and organized by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the European Commission.

As part of the Nutrition Solutions Village, CERFAM CI hosted an exhibition booth that attracted numerous visitors, including internationally renowned experts and high-level dignitaries. Participant included His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho, African Union Nutrition Champion and the First Lady of Brazil. This strong turnout reflects the growing interest in CERFAM CI's role in promoting African-led solutions for nutrition.

At the margins of N4G, CERFAM also co-organized a workshop titled "Innovating for Nutrition in Africa – Promising Practices through the Centre of Excellence in Côte d'Ivoire." The event showcased inspiring initiatives from Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Guinea, highlighting the potential of local and regional approaches in the fight against malnutrition.

CERFAM CI's participation in the Summit reaffirms Côte d'Ivoire's commitment to positioning the Centre as a catalyst for SSTC and for disseminating innovative and sustainable solutions to fight hunger and malnutrition in Africa.

As a follow-up to this participation, promising practices will be documented and promoted through SSTC channels. New regional consultations are planned for 2025 to foster the large-scale adoption of these practices across the continent.



Photo: CERFAM

### CERFAM CI Strengthens South-South Partnerships Through 'Healthy Diets 4 Africa' in Cameroon

In April, the [HealthyDiets4Africa project](#) - a six-year research initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by 21 African and European partners - undertook a mid-term evaluation mission to Cameroon.

The "Combatting Malnutrition in Africa through Food Systems Diversification" project aims to enhance food and nutrition security through sustainable diversification of locally produced foods across eight African countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Liberia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda.

A key objective of the evaluation mission was to assess the implementation of activities in Cameroon by conducting visits to key sites and knowledge-sharing exchanges with PhD student, beneficiaries, and technical experts.

The key sites included the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD), the University of Dschang and the Agricultural and Vocational Training Centre (AVTC).

This exercise reinforced peer learning by allowing Cameroonian partners and research institutions to engage with counterparts from other African countries, thus promoting African-led capacity building, knowledge sharing, and research collaboration.

Leading the "Policies and Communication" work package<sup>1</sup>, CERFAM CI facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogue to bridge scientific research, public policy and community-level innovation, which will ultimately contribute to contextualising research findings and discussions for policy use.

Through this mission, CERFAM CI reaffirmed its commitment to scaling up evidence-based practices, documenting innovations and accelerating policy uptake through SSTC in support of healthier diets and resilient food systems across Africa.

<sup>1</sup> The Policies and Communications work package (WP9), focuses on strengthening the policy landscape to promote healthy, diversified diets in Africa and subsequently, engagement promoting healthy diets and project outcomes. It involves mapping, improving, and monitoring changes in policy, understanding the gaps, developing advocacy tools and providing technical assistance to governments. Multi-stakeholder platforms and public champions will support engagement, as well as amplify impact and drive policy change.

# Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

## Trinidad and Chile Exchange Lessons on Targeting in School Feeding

In April, Trinidad and Tobago and Chile participated in a virtual SSTC exchange facilitated by WFP. The exchange focused on improving school feeding programme targeting and marked the first formal dialogue between the two countries on the topic.

Trinidad and Tobago, part of SIDS, has been grappling with the rising cost of living and high food prices, with 42 percent of households estimated to be food insecure ([WFP-CARICOM Food Security and Livelihoods Survey, April 2024](#)).

Acknowledging the critical role of school feeding in supporting vulnerable populations, Trinidad has been implementing the School Nutrition Programme (SNP) in over 800 schools through the state-owned enterprise National Schools Dietary Services Limited (NSDSL).

Aiming to expand the coverage of the programme without the corresponding expansion of fiscal space, the Ministry of Education approached WFP for technical advice.

Leveraging SSTC, WFP identified Chile's school feeding programme as one of the most relevant models for Trinidad.

During the exchange, both countries shared details of their programmes. Chile presented its targeting mechanism, a multidimensional vulnerability index that is applied in its school feeding. The NSDSL Chief Executive Officer recognized strong potential for mutual learning and expressed Trinidad's commitment to continue the collaboration.

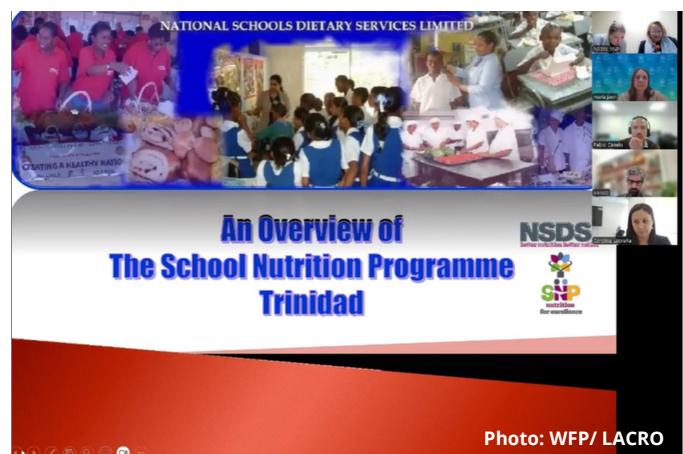


Photo: WFP/ LACRO

## Colombia Advances Adaptive Social Protection Through Exchange with Peru

In May, Colombia's National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) hosted a technical dialogue on Adaptive Social Protection, with support from WFP.

The session brought together more than 15 officials from various departments within Colombia's UNGRD to strengthen institutional capacities and explore synergies between social protection and disaster risk management.

The event is part of WFP Colombia's broader efforts to support a more resilient and risk-informed social protection system through SSTC.

Contributions included practical experiences shared by Peru's Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS) on integrating social protection with disaster risk management, as well as national expertise from WFP Colombia and regional insights from the WFP Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO).

The exchange contributed to UNGRD's ongoing efforts to update its National Emergency Response Strategy (ENRE), which now formally includes Adaptive Social Protection as a complementary approach to emergency response.

These advances reflect the broader capacity-strengthening process that WFP is facilitating across Colombia's social protection and disaster risk management institutions, helping build stronger institutional systems to respond more effectively and proactively to shocks and crises.

Building on this exchange, next steps will focus on strengthening collaboration to implement adaptive social protection and enhance resilience in Colombia and the region.

# Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

## Cuba Advances Social Protection Through Regional Peer Learning

In May, a multisectoral Cuban delegation conducted a peer learning mission in Panama City to advance the design of a national targeting tool.

The initiative focused on statistical analysis for calculating the [Multidimensional Vulnerability Index \(MVI\)](#) and the development of food and nutrition security indicators.

The delegation included representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Ministry of Domestic Trade, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Economy and Planning, as well as technical staff from the [Enterprise for Information Technology for Defence \(XETID\)](#), the state entity responsible for developing technological platforms.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP supported the exchange.

The initiative is part of the Government of Cuba's commitment to strengthening social policies to enable greater efficiency in social spending and more effective support for vulnerable people.

A key highlight of the mission was a virtual exchange with Germán Briceño, former Deputy Director of Colombia's National Planning Department and current advisor to the Government of Bogotá.

## Belize Learns from the Guatemalan Experience in School Feeding

Since 2022, Belize has been implementing a national school feeding programme that currently reaches over 14,600 students in 77 schools.

Supported by the Mesoamerica Hunger-Free Programme and the Resilient Caribbean Initiative, the programme aims to address growing malnutrition concerns and strengthen human capital development.

In June, Belize's Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST) participated in a study visit to Guatemala's Petén region to learn from its long-standing, community-based school feeding programme.

The visit was facilitated by LACRO and WFP Guatemala, as part of ongoing regional collaboration.

The study visit was a follow-up to a virtual exchange in May 2024, where MoEST gained insight into Guatemala's community-based school feeding programme, a nationwide intervention reaching over 3 million students with a nutritious meal every day.

The officials shared Colombia's experience in operating the national-level social targeting system - System for Identifying Potential Beneficiaries of Social Programmes (SISBEN) and developing and implementing the Social Household Registry.

This interoperable platform integrates multiple state databases to improve the accuracy and reach of social interventions.

The exchange explored SISBEN's design, household classification, national scalability, and inter-institutional coordination, providing valuable insights for Cuba as it develops its own systems.

This SSTC initiative reflects Cuba's commitment to building an evidence-based, efficient social protection model through regional collaboration and peer learning.



# Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

## Strengthening Home-Grown School Feeding in Senegal Through SSTC with Brazil

In February, the Government of Senegal hosted a high-level scoping mission in Senegal with the participation of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, the WFP Brazil and WFP Senegal, as part of a new SSTC initiative.

This new initiative aims to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) in Senegal through strengthened policy frameworks, strategic planning, and nutrition-sensitive design by learning from Brazil and France.

The mission brought together a wide range of stakeholders from Senegal: Directorate of School Canteens (DCAs), Ministry of National Education (MEN), National School Feeding and Nutrition Multisectoral Group (GMSANE), National Council for Nutrition Development (CNDN), National Council for Rural Dialogue and Cooperation (CNCR), Local Cooperatives and Peri-Urban Schools (Rufisque Area).

Other international organizations as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Humanity and International Development (HUMUNDI) also joined.

Courtesy meetings were also held with the Embassies of Brazil and France.

## Fostering Integrated Risk Management in the Sahel Through AICRM Coordination Workshop in Dakar

In May, seven Sahelian countries joined a four-day technical coordination workshop in Dakar and Saly, Senegal under the Africa Integrated Climate Risk Management (AICRM) programme.

The workshop was jointly organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP and was part of the broader “One Sahel” framework, supporting climate risk management and agricultural resilience through South-South learning and integrated implementation. African Risk Capacity (ARC) regional teams also participated.

The workshop aimed to facilitate coordination among government-led host projects and executing entities, including Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal.

Participants exchanged experiences on microinsurance, programmatic integration, feasibility studies, gender-responsive design, and harmonization of monitoring and reporting frameworks. Strategic alignment with host government priorities and clearer coordination structures were key themes.

The event catalyzed South-South peer exchange by encouraging the joint design of risk transfer mechanisms and value chain development among participating countries.

The mission focused on understanding Senegal's social and institutional context, mapping relevant policies and stakeholders, and laying the groundwork for coordinated implementation.

Leveraging Brazil's expertise in sustainable school feeding and France's leadership within the School Meals Coalition, this project is fully aligned with Senegal's transformation agenda.

It combines Global South innovations and North-South partnerships to support Senegal's ambition to reach 65% coverage of public schools by 2028 with climate-resilient nutritious meals sourced locally.

Next steps and deliverables will include:

- Updated School Feeding Policy Document emphasizing local procurement and intersectoral collaboration;
- Strategic Plan for 2025–2029 focusing on HGSF management structures, timelines, and roles;
- Nutritional Guide for School Meals adapted to local availability, seasonality, and nutritional needs;
- Final report summarizing achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations for scaling up a nationally owned, sustainable school feeding programme in Senegal.

Teams were encouraged to adapt tools like the Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) value chain methodology and the 3PA (Three-Pronged Approach) framework for feasibility assessments.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support refers to programmes that help small-scale farmers access reliable markets—including those created by school feeding and humanitarian food procurement—by improving their productivity, quality standards, and business skills, while the 3PA is a tool used to design effective resilience and food security programmes.

It combines community-based planning, seasonal livelihood analysis, and national policy alignment to ensure interventions are timely, locally relevant, and sustainable. Countries such as Niger and Mali flagged country-specific adaptations for integration.

Next steps include:

- Finalization of country-level targeting strategies,
- Harmonized reporting mechanisms, and
- Accelerated deliverable execution of the inception assessments for the seven countries to unlock the second tranche of Green Climate Fund (GCF) financing.

# Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

## Southern Cities Exchange Climate Resilience Strategies Through SSTC

In March, Government representatives from Mozambique participated in the International Week for Resilient and Sustainable Cities in Brazil, as part of the second phase of the [Regional Urban Preparedness Project](#).

The event gathered experts to discuss strategies for adapting to urban flooding, based on the experiences of the cities of Caxias do Sul (Brazil) and Beira (Mozambique), with technical support from the Universities of Caxias do Sul and Westminster, UK. Read more details [here](#).

## Third Africa High-Level Forum on SSTC Promotes African Solutions

In May, the Government of Sierra Leone and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Continental Secretariat successfully convened the Third Africa High-Level Forum on SSTC for Sustainable Development.

Held at the Bintumani International Conference Centre, the Forum welcomed African leaders and partners from China, India, Saudi Arabia and beyond.

The Forum reinforced that SSTC is critical to tackling today's global challenges—from climate change and debt to public health and digital inclusion. Speakers highlighted that SSTC offers context-specific, knowledge-driven responses that empower countries of the Global South to co-create sustainable solutions.

The event showcased collaboration across continents and sectors, including partnerships with the Organisation of Southern Cooperation, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the UN system and public administration institutions.

A continental exhibition also highlighted youth-led initiatives and innovation in governance, education, and sustainable finance.

The forum also highlighted Algeria's commitment to SSTC evidenced by the establishment of the Algerian Agency for International Cooperation for solidarity and development and the review of legal and institutional frameworks for investment.

Participants endorsed the Freetown Declaration, reaffirming shared commitments to the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and peer-learning through the APRM.

The Forum addressed pressing issues such as economic resilience, civil service delivery, the role of the African diaspora in promoting good governance as well as the role of women and youth in sustainable development among others.

As next steps, the APRM and its partners will continue leveraging SSTC to advance good governance, peer learning, and institutional reforms across the continent.

Countries were urged to scale participation in SSTC networks and align national development with cooperative regional frameworks.

Read more [here](#).



Photo: APRM

# Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

## Ethiopia Strengthens Social Protection Systems Through a South-South Exchange with Kenya

In May, the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, with the support of the WFP COs and the World Bank, held a SSTC learning visit focused on integrated and shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) systems.

The Ethiopian delegation included senior officials from the Ministries of Women and Social Affairs, Agriculture, Finance, and the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission and the National ID office.

The Kenya National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) hosted the technical sessions. Sessions featured input from the different Directorates in the State Department for Social Protection, National Drought Management Authority, National Registration Bureau, Civil Registration Services, the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and WFP.

The main objective was to enable Ethiopia to learn from Kenya's Enhanced Single Registry (ESR), SRSP mechanisms, and the Economic Inclusion Programme (EIP), with a focus on digital infrastructure, policy coordination, and community-level innovations.

The delegation met with the Taita Taveta County representatives led by the Deputy Governor to discuss ground-level implementation.

They interacted with beneficiaries of mature Village Savings and Loan Associations groups supported under EIP, witnessing firsthand how savings-led approaches and cash transfers are improving livelihoods.

Testimonies highlighted real transformations, such as improved food security and the ability to build dignified housing.

This exchange strengthens Kenya's role as a regional learning hub and reinforces WFP's role in brokering peer learning. The World Bank's participation reinforced its collaboration in social protection and SSTC as a key pathway to stronger national social protection systems.

As the next step, Ethiopia will incorporate lessons into its ongoing social protection reforms and conduct follow-up virtual engagements and a reciprocal visit for Kenyan counterparts.



Photo: WFP/Lilian Matama

# Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

## Strengthening Shock-Responsive Social Protection Through South-South Knowledge Exchange in Jordan

In June, the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) of Jordan, jointly with the WFP Jordan CO, hosted a high-level SSTC knowledge exchange webinar on SRSP.

The virtual event brought together policymakers and practitioners from Jordan, China, Türkiye, Cambodia, Ukraine and the Dominican Republic to share best practices and innovative approaches to integrating social protection with disaster preparedness.

The Minister of Social Development opened the event and stressed the importance of building shock responsive systems in the country to build resilience among vulnerable groups in Jordan. This activity is supported by the MARA-WFP Global SSTC initiative.

The webinar aimed to support Jordan's efforts in implementing its updated National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS), especially the newly developed cross-cutting SRSP pillar.

Key topics included coordination mechanisms, early warning systems, financing models, and digital tools for rapid response within the Social Protection system.

Participants from MoSD (Social Services), the National Aid Fund (Social Assistance), the Social Security Corporation (Social Insurance), as well as the National Center for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM) and other governmental stakeholders explored adaptable solutions for Jordan's context.

Highlights included:

- China's climate-adaptive systems in Ningxia, leveraging digitalized registries for dynamic cash transfers.
- Türkiye's Integrated Social Assistance System (ISAS) for rapid scaling during earthquakes and refugee crises.
- Cambodia's IDPoor registry and the Dominican Republic's SIUBEN registry for shock responsiveness.

This webinar was the first activity in a SRSP work plan aimed at supporting the development of SRSP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to operationalize the NSPS's implementation plan.

Next steps include a WFP-facilitated national simulation on drought, early design workshops for the SOPs and additional in-depth knowledge exchange opportunities.

The initiative underscores the power of SSTC in building resilient social protection systems.

## Advancing China-Africa Cooperation for Rice Value Chain Development

In June, Ministries of Agriculture and technical agencies of Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, and other African countries participated in the final review meeting of the West Africa Rice Value Chain Development Project and the China-Africa Rice Value Chain Seminar in Guangzhou in China.

The event was organized by the WFP China CoE and included participation of WFP COs, CERFAM CI, the Gates Foundation and Chinese academic and agricultural institutions.

The seminar aimed to promote knowledge exchange, review progress, and identify new partnerships and funding opportunities to strengthen rice value chains in Africa.

Delegates from Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire shared lessons learned from the 2022–2024 pilot project, implemented by WFP COs with support from CERFAM CI and WFP China, and funded by the Gates Foundation.

The project introduced Chinese agricultural technologies, upgraded post-harvest infrastructure, and supported over 2,000 farmers—95% of whom are women.

Results included a 60.7% increase in productivity, over 20% reduction in post-harvest losses, and improved food

security and incomes.

Participants also joined a two-day field visit to rice production sites and companies around Guangzhou, observing automated technologies and innovative equipment designed to improve efficiency and reduce labour demands.

Next steps include identifying opportunities for resource, technology and expertise transfer from China to African countries to enhance rice production, reduce post-harvest losses and support import substitution goals in line with



Photo: WFP China CoE

# Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

## India Showcased Scalable Solutions for Global Food Security at the WFP Executive Board Exhibition

In February, the Government of India jointly with WFP India hosted an exhibition "[Scaling Impact for a Food Secure World: Initiatives of WFP in India and Reflections from Partner Countries](#)" on the margins of WFP's first regular Executive Board session in Rome.

The event showcased pioneering Indian innovations with strong potential for SSTC, highlighting scalable solutions that address critical food security challenges.

The exhibition featured five innovations developed by WFP in collaboration with the Government of India: Grain ATM (Annapurni), Smart Warehouse, Supply Chain Optimisation, Learning Management System and Rice Fortification.

These solutions reflect India's leadership in digital innovation, supply chain efficiency, and public service delivery.

The exhibition aimed to:

- Demonstrate impactful innovations from India for a global audience.
- Foster cross-country knowledge exchange between Governments through SSTC and within the WFP system.
- Highlight success stories and testimonials from countries like Nepal, Nigeria and Sri Lanka where learnings from India have informed national programmes.

Senior officials of the Government of India alongside Permanent Representatives from Sri Lanka and Nigeria participated in the event.

They highlighted how SSTC exchanges with India had influenced policy shifts in their countries—particularly around school meals and rice fortification.

In addition, a [video testimonial](#) from the Government of Nepal reflected on the crucial insights gained during the SSTC exchange with India in 2022, which informed Nepal's food systems transformation plan.

The event also saw the participation of WFP's leadership endorsing these initiatives as relevant models for global adaptation.

A virtual exhibition and printed catalogues were also featured at the event.

This exhibition builds on over 15 SSTC knowledge exchanges facilitated by WFP India since 2016 and sets the stage for future in-country demonstrations and technical cooperation with governments across Asia and Africa.

WFP India will continue to collaborate with partner countries to adapt and scale these innovations, fostering shared progress toward Zero Hunger.



Photo: WFP/Matteo Minnella

# Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

## India Showcases SMART Warehousing Solution at a SSTC Regional Webinar

In April, the WFP Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESAPO) Partnership Unit and the SSTC Unit at HQ jointly hosted a pilot virtual webinar to spotlight existing SSTC solutions relevant to country priorities in Southern Africa.

In this session, WFP India presented the SMART Warehousing, an innovative digital solution developed in collaboration with the Government of India.

The SMART Warehouse uses the internet to monitor and manage grain storage conditions, significantly reducing post-harvest losses.

Sensors track real-time metrics such as temperature, humidity, CO<sub>2</sub> levels, fire/smoke presence, oxygen and phosphine levels, rodent activity and unauthorized access. Alerts enable timely interventions, strengthening control, efficiency, and security of food reserves.

The webinar aimed to:

- Promote awareness of scalable SSTC solutions across Africa.
- Encourage replication of proven innovations like India's SMART Warehousing in similar contexts.

## China Enhances Nutrition of Schoolchildren in the Kyrgyz Republic Through SSTC

In May, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic took part in a handover ceremony at School #86 in Osh Province, Kyrgyz Republic, marking the optimization of the national school meals programme (NSMP).

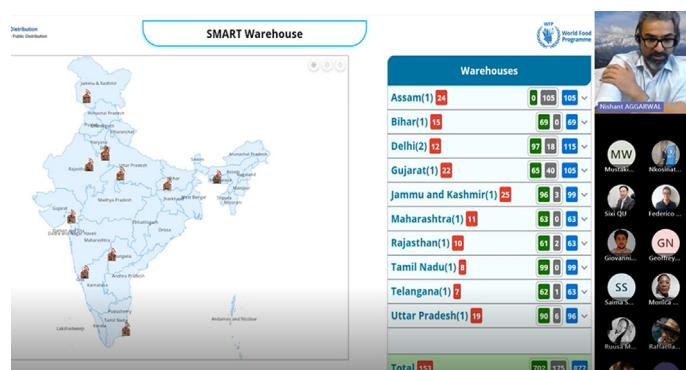
Key officials attended the ceremony, including the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kyrgyz Republic, the Deputy Plenipotentiary Representative of the President in the Osh Province and the WFP Representative and Country Director in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The enhanced NSMP is implemented jointly by the Kyrgyz Government and WFP, supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China through the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), with funding from the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund.

- Support COs in leveraging SSTC as a tool for resource mobilization and government capacity strengthening.

The SMART Warehouse model is now being explored by other countries in the region as a potential solution for more resilient food systems.

The webinar served as a follow-up to an initial session on SSTC principles and underscored the importance of collaborative approaches in addressing a complex environment.



The initiative marks CIDCA's first multilateral project in the country and the Central Asia region and provides nutritious school meals to more than 100,000 children across the Kyrgyz Republic.

The project aims to address critical micronutrient deficiencies among primary school children in the targeted provinces.

As part of the initiative, in 2025, 1,700 metric tons of fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil, rice and lentils will be delivered to over 330 schools across Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces.

This contribution will help schools diversify and enhance the nutritional value of meals in the 2025–2026 academic year.

Read more [here](#).



Photo: WFP/Alena Pukhtii

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

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

**For more information please contact:**

**HQ-related articles and overall coordination to this edition:**

[sstc.global@wfp.org](mailto:sstc.global@wfp.org).

**Related to WFP China CoE:**

Xiaobei.Wang@wfp.org and Linyi.Li@wfp.org.

**Related to WFP Brazil:**

Mariaclara.Ferreira@wfp.org and Vinicius.Limongi@wfp.org.

**Related to CERFAM CI:**

Marina.Mea@wfp.org and Pierre.Tahe@wfp.org.

**Related to LACRO:**

Maria.Jaen@wfp.org.

**Related to WACARO:**

AimeeZeinab.Diallo@wfp.org.

**Related to WFP Kenya CO:**

Lilian.Matama@wfp.org and Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org.

**Related to WFP Jordan CO:**

Ananda.Paez@wfp.org and Hind.Farahat@wfp.org.

**Related to WFP India CO:**

Kaustuv.Chakrabarti@wfp.org.

**Related to WFP Kyrgyzstan CO:**

Adelia.Albanova@wfp.org and Hana.Nakata@wfp.org.

## **World Food Programme**

Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70,  
00148 Rome, Italy - T +39 06  
65131

**[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)**