



South-South Quarterly Newsletter

December 2025

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WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

The Rome-based Agencies Celebrated the 2025 UN Day for South-South Cooperation

In September, the Rome-based Agencies (RBA)—the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP—marked the 2025 UN Day for South-South Cooperation with a high-level webinar on “South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) and Financing for Food Security and Nutrition.”

The event convened more than 170 participants, including senior government officials from Panama, Mozambique, Kenya, and representatives from the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the Islamic Development Bank.

Organized jointly by the RBA, the event aimed to demonstrate how SSTC can unlock innovative financing, such as debt swaps, blended finance mechanisms and climate funds, to strengthen national food security and resilience.

Government representatives highlighted progress in climate adaptation financing, national social protection systems, and debt restructuring models that channel resources toward school feeding and nutrition programmes.

Key takeaways underscored the growing relevance of SSTC as an avenue for diversifying financing sources,

WFP Webinar Highlighted African-led SSTC as a Catalyst for Innovation and Resource Mobilization

In October, WFP's East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) convened a regional webinar to advance African-led approaches to SSTC as a driver of innovation, resource mobilization and policy alignment.

The session brought together government representatives, WFP country offices (COs), and regional partners to explore how SSTC can strengthen institutional capacities and diversify financing mechanisms across the continent.

Dr. Hameed Nuru, Director of the African Union Global Office (AUGO), opened the event by stressing the urgent need for African-led models that respond to shifting global financing dynamics.

He underscored the forthcoming AU Ten-Year African-Led SSTC Programme (2025-2035) as a transformative framework to institutionalize cooperation among AU Member States and operationalize African Centres of Excellence (CoEs).

Participants discussed opportunities for COs to leverage continental frameworks and financing windows—including the IBSA Fund and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund (India-UN Fund)—to expand home-grown solutions in food systems, school feeding, and climate resilience.

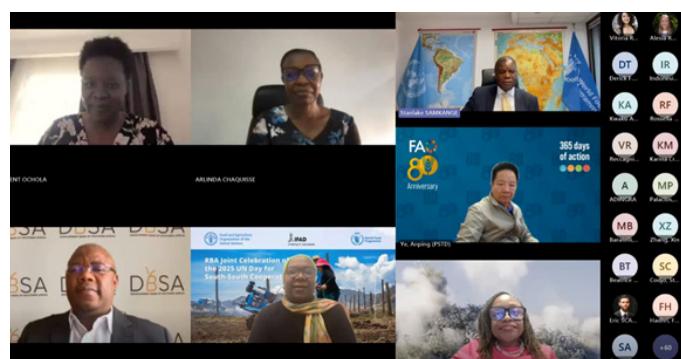
The webinar served as a practical space for COs to map funding priorities, explore demand-driven SSTC partnerships, and align their country strategies with AU-led initiatives.

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strengthening inter-institutional coordination, and amplifying Global South leadership in shaping more equitable financial architectures.

The Global Alliance Against Poverty and Hunger also presented its matchmaking mechanism designed to link countries with tailored Global South expertise, while member states shared practical lessons from their national financing models. The discussions will feed into the upcoming UN System-Wide Strategy on SSTC.

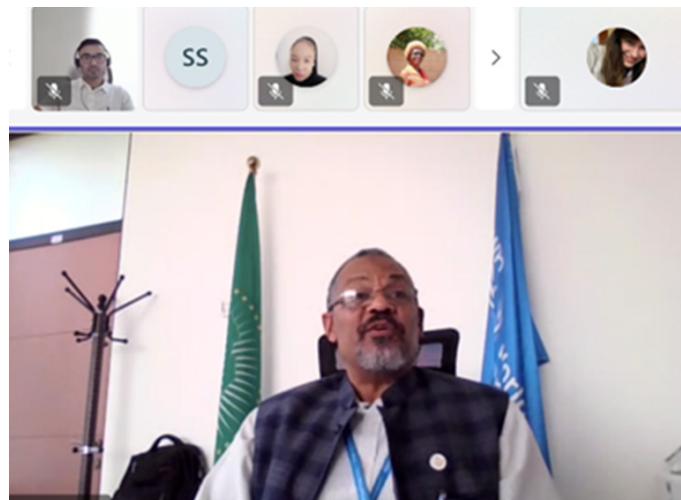
Next steps include deepening inter-agency collaboration, expanding national access to innovative financing platforms, and documenting country cases for broader dissemination across the RBA. See more details [here](#).



Key takeaways highlighted the importance of linking policy direction with operational delivery, elevating African expertise, and promoting peer-to-peer learning across Member States.

The discussions also reinforced SSTC as a critical mechanism for strengthening national ownership and accelerating progress toward Zero Hunger.

Next steps include supporting countries to engage with the AU SSTC Programme, strengthening proposal pipelines for SSTC funds and documenting African-led innovations for regional replication.



WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

SSTC Unit Hosted a "Campfire Session" to Support Country Offices Access Global Funding Mechanisms

In November, the SSTC Unit hosted an interactive "Campfire session" to support COs interested in applying to the global managed funding mechanisms managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

The objective of the session was to provide COs with clear guidance on how to design strong, relevant SSTC proposals and navigate the application and review process.

The session built on the recently launched [SSTC Funding Mechanisms Guidance Package](#), which consolidates corporate requirements, good practices and step-by-step instructions for applicants.

During the discussion, the colleagues from Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and the Republic of Congo COs shared concrete lessons from their funded initiatives—respectively the India-UN Global Capacity-Building Initiative and the IBSA-funded project.

Participants learned how to identify demand-driven priorities, articulate government leadership, and

Evaluation Report Shows Positive Impact of the Seeds for Tomorrow

In December, the SSTC Unit jointly with WFP Brazil CoE organized a webinar "From Evidence to Impact: Lessons from the IBSA-Funded SSTC Project Evaluation in the Republic of Congo".

The initiative aimed to share lessons learned and recommendations of the Final Evaluation Report of the [Seeds for Tomorrow](#) Project in the Republic of Congo.

The document is the first external evaluation of a WFP SSTC project.

This report assesses performance of the project, documenting lessons learned, best practices and the transformative impact of SSTC in shifting paradigms from dependence on international food aid to sustainable, locally driven solutions.

The webinar highlighted the relevance and alignment of the initiative with global and national frameworks.

First-Ever Republic of Korea "Saving Lives" SSTC Initiative: Strengthening Homegrown School Feeding in Yemen and Lebanon

In December, a USD 3.3 million SSTC proposal titled "Strengthening Homegrown School Feeding through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Yemen and Lebanon (2026–2028)" received final approval from the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

The approval followed a positive evaluation by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in May 2025.

The project will promote South-South exchange between Yemen and Lebanon, with triangular support from the Republic of Korea, to strengthen HGSF systems.

demonstrate feasible SSTC modalities such as study visits, expert exchanges and technical demonstrations.

SSTC focal points from the WFP Brazil Centre of Excellence against Hunger (WFP Brazil CoE) and India CO also provided strategic perspectives on aligning proposals with national expertise and building partnerships leveraging SSTC.

Key takeaways highlighted the importance of clear problem statements, strong government ownership, realistic activity planning, and evidence-based justification for SSTC.

The session also underscored the value of early consultation with the WFP Regional Offices (ROs) and the SSTC team.

Next steps include continued support for COs preparing proposals and the expansion of practical learning sessions to encourage more demand-driven, high-impact SSTC initiatives across WFP.

See the recording [here](#).

Evaluation Report Shows Positive Impact of the Seeds for Tomorrow

In addition, it showcased 100 percent achievement of planned targets and strong capacity gains for government institutions and local actors.

Participants emphasized the project's impact on policies and practices, influencing the Republic of Congo's commitment to expand school feeding with local products and inspiring interest from other African countries.

Looking forward, WFP will continue building capacity of the Government at national and subnational levels to enhance the national school feeding programme.

Also, WFP will continue facilitating discussions between the governments of the Republic of Congo and Brazil to support the implementation of the Home-Grown School feeding (HGSF) Transition Plan (2025-2030) and explore new avenues to catalyze additional technical and financial support. See the recording [here](#).

First-Ever Republic of Korea "Saving Lives" SSTC Initiative: Strengthening Homegrown School Feeding in Yemen and Lebanon

It will facilitate peer learning on pilot initiatives that link school kitchens with local agrifood businesses, enhancing local markets, livelihoods, and food system resilience.

Drawing on RoK's technical expertise and experience, the project will further reinforce the resilience and livelihoods dimensions of school feeding programmes.

This milestone was made possible through a global taskforce bringing together colleagues from HQ, ROs and COs, as well as Multilateral and Programme Countries (MPC) and Global Partner Countries (GPC) Divisions teams, exemplifying a coordinated, multi-level approach to delivering impactful SSTC initiatives.

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

West Africa Rice Value Chain Review Meeting

In June, government representatives from China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Togo and Guinea-Bissau joined the West Africa Rice Value Chain Review Meeting in Guangzhou, China.

The meeting was organized by the WFP China Centre of Excellence (WFP China CoE) and supported by the Gate Foundation, the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM) and WFP COs in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. Over 60 participants from China and Africa participated in the event.

The event served as the closing summit for the Gate Foundation-funded [West Africa Rice Value Chain Enhancement project](#) and aimed to review the project's achievements, assess impacts and consolidate experiences and lessons for future scale-up.

Participants recognized the project as a groundbreaking milestone—the first field initiative under the China-Africa Rice Value Chain mechanism.

China-Africa Rice Value Chain Seminar

In June, the Fifth China-Africa Rice Value Chain Seminar convened more than 150 policymakers, researchers, and private-sector actors from 9 African countries¹.

Co-organized by China's National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration (NAFRA), UNOSSC, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and WFP China CoE, with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA) and China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE), the seminar served as a high-level platform to deepen technical and policy cooperation across continents.

The seminar's objective was to advance joint solutions to strengthen rice value chains by leveraging SSTC modalities such as expert-led knowledge exchanges, multi-country dialogues, and hands-on demonstrations.

The event opened with a review of the West Africa Rice Value Chain Enhancement Project, aligning with broader SSTC goals of cross-country learning and multilateral collaboration.

Participants engaged in four technical deep-dive sessions focused on maize and cassava value chains, agricultural mechanization, and drought-resistant rice—each led by practitioners from African and Chinese research institutions.

The seminar also underscored the potential of SSTC to mobilize resources and scale innovations.

Key takeaways included deeper sectoral understanding of West Africa's rice sector needs, an innovative shift from short-term training to sustained multi-year, multilateral collaboration, and tangible local impacts, including boosted productivity, reduced post-harvest losses, enhanced technology transfer, strengthened farmer capacity and women's economic empowerment.

Participants jointly called for extending the project model to other areas of Africa. Read details [here](#).



Photo: WFP/ China CoE

Key takeaways included the need for continued multi-country exchanges, and long-term government-to-government partnerships to accelerate progress.

Next steps include:

- Piloting targeted solutions (e.g., mini-silos, drought-resistant rice in Cameroon/Guinea) to reduce Africa's post-harvest losses;
- Leveraging WFP and WFP China CoE digital platforms to strengthen South-South exchange through multilingual agri-tech training and public-private partnerships;
- Expanding to diversified value chains (maize, cassava) aligned with Agenda 2063 via policy harmonization, blended finance, and replication of proven models (e.g., Madagascar's hybrid rice, Mozambique's contract farming); and
- Centering farmer needs through tailored technologies and policy-linked innovation (e.g., solar irrigation, affordable machinery).



Photo: WFP/ China CoE

¹ Côte d'Ivoire (CIV), Guinea, Cameroon, Togo, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Nigeria

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

Webinar Series on Grain Post-Harvest Handling for Smallholders

In June and July, MARA jointly with WFP China CoE and WFP Climate and Resilience Service (PPGR) organized a Webinar Series on Grain Post-Harvest Handling for Smallholders.

The webinars aimed to share and exchange adaptable technologies, equipment, and business models to strengthen smallholders' capacity in reducing grain post-harvest losses.

The webinars gathered 226 government officials, technical experts, researchers, private sector actors, representatives from NGOs and communities, and WFP colleagues from ROs and COs from 47 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Webinar sessions highlighted complementary approaches to support smallholders in post-harvest grain drying, demonstrated the full SSTC technology transfer pathway facilitated by WFP China CoE.

Seminar on Post-Harvest Loss Management

In October, the 2025 Seminar on Post-Harvest Loss Management (PHLM) themed as "Access to Technology: Leveraging Policy to Bridge the Technology Gap in Post-Harvest Loss Reduction" convened around 180 participants.

The participants included government officials, international organizations, researchers, and industry leaders from more than 12 countries, including Burundi, Senegal, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Guinea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan, Zambia and Namibia.

The event aimed to create a platform for discussions on transformative pathways for technological empowerment and SSTC in reducing post-harvest food losses.

The event was co-organized by the Department of International Cooperation of NAFRA, Henan University of Science and Technology (HAUT), and the China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association and WFP China CoE.

It was supported by the Academy of National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration, the Nanjing Institute of Agricultural Mechanization of MARA, and the Nanjing University of Finance and Economics.

They also provided an analytical perspective on smallholder market access in Africa showcasing supportive methods implemented in various countries.

The China's government-led model for smallholder post-harvest handling, private sector-led approaches in Africa, and South-South private sector partnerships were highlighted for reducing smallholder grain post-harvest losses.

Next steps include connecting identified field needs with adaptable technical offers from China and partner countries, strengthening private-sector engagement in SSTC, and expanding cooperation on smallholder post-harvest loss reduction.

Participants discussed critical stages of the post-harvest value chain, examined China's successful strategies in reducing storage loss rates, and explored policy instruments that enable affordable technology adoption among smallholders.

The discussions emphasized practical solutions, including mechanization innovations and smallholder-centric technologies, through parallel forums on smart warehousing and grassroots applications.

Next steps include:

- Deepening policy dialogue with government officials to align with national policies and the AU's 2035 goal;
- Enhancing technical exchange via field visits, studies, and seminars with two-way African expert engagement;
- Launching targeted South-South cooperation projects (e.g., with Burundi, Madagascar); and
- Co-designing the 2026 PHLM Seminar with academic partners. WFP China COE, alongside NAFRA and HAUT, will coordinate stakeholders, monitor progress, and mobilize resources to turn momentum into tangible smallholder food security gains.



Photo: WFP/China CoE

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

Brazil and Benin Exchange Sustainable Technologies in Clean Cooking for School Feeding

In October, Governments of Brazil and Benin, together with WFP Brazil CoE and WFP Benin CO organized a multidimensional technical mission to strengthen low-carbon solutions in school feeding programmes.

This cooperation initiative was carried out under the Brazil-France partnership, both serving as co-chairs of the [School Meals Coalition](#).

Its objective is to strengthen and scale sustainable school feeding models through a multi-sectoral framework by enhancing clean cooking capacities and sustainable agriculture practices in schools.

It convened government representatives, NGOs, community leaders, and school managers to advance the national school feeding programme across three strategic pillars: improving nutrition, promoting local procurement through HGSF, and integrating sustainable technologies into school environments.

During the mission, practical examples of SSTC were showcased, including on-field construction of a biodigester in one school, ecological stoves and ecological gardens in three different schools.

These solutions aim to reduce environmental impacts, increase school resilience, and promote healthier learning environments.

In one of the schools in Benin, playful activities on food and nutrition education were carried out with children, inspired by the publication "Mangeons Bien, Jouons Ensemble"

("Let's Eat Well, Let's Play Together"), developed by the WFP Brazil CoE in partnership with WFP Benin CO.

The mission also included a seminar on "Sustainability and Local Sourcing in School Canteens" where partners developed a proposal to strengthening local procurement for school canteens using cash-based transfers to access fresh local products.

Key takeaways emphasized the role of school feeding as an entry point for climate action, community engagement and social development.

The collaboration demonstrated successful SSTC between Brazil, Benin and France.

Next steps include continued engagement with the Ministry of Education and finalizing a proposal for local procurement.



Photo: WFP/Jonas Hounmanou

Beyond Cotton Project Strengthens Local Markets in Benin

In November, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and WFP Brazil CoE convened a meeting to review progress from the [Beyond Cotton Project](#) mission carried out in northern Benin in October, with support from the WFP Benin CO.

The initiative brought together local authorities, representatives of Benin's National Food and Nutrition Agency (ANAN), community leaders, teachers, and family farmers engaged in diversified production systems.

The mission aimed to promote food and nutrition education in a public school of Kpandri, Copargo, and to strengthen the capacities of family farmers through agroforestry and sustainable land management practices.

Children participated in interactive nutrition activities based on the *Amuse-bouche* educational game, while farmers took part in hands-on workshops covering crop consortia, soil conservation, water-efficient practices, and climate-resilient production.

Schools also established vegetable gardens with strong community participation, enhancing access to fresh foods for school meals.

Since its launch in 2022, the Beyond Cotton Project has significantly increased smallholder integration into local markets in northern Benin.

Cotton farmers have expanded their economic opportunities by selling both cotton and food crops grown through consortium systems—strengthening household resilience, improving income diversification, and supplying nutritious produce to nearby schools.

Next steps include exploring new partnerships with universities and agricultural technical schools in Brazil and Benin.

A documentary on the project is being produced to ensure the dissemination of lessons learned and the sustainability of results.

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

Brazilian Mission to São Tomé and Príncipe Drives Climate Action Through School Feeding

In October and November, Brazilian specialists from the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE) carried out two technical missions to São Tomé and Príncipe aiming to enhance nutrition services and introduce sustainable technologies into the national school feeding programme.

Government representatives of São Tomé's National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE), the Ministry of Health, community leaders and WFP Brazil CoE participated in the initiative.

The main objective was to strengthen national capacity in nutrition, improve menu planning, and expand climate-resilient solutions for school environments.

Leveraging SSTC, FNDE led practical training sessions on designing nutrition-sensitive menus, mapping local food availability, assessing school infrastructure, applying nutritional guidelines, and monitoring PNASE implementation.

These sessions strengthened the technical skills of national and local staff working directly with school feeding.

The mission also introduced sustainable technologies to improve resilience and food safety. A community-built cistern was installed to ensure reliable water access for meals preparation in a school serving 200 children—an affordable and easily replicable solution for schools facing water scarcity.

Additionally, three ecological stoves were installed to reduce firewood use and smoke emissions, improving cooks' working conditions and promoting cleaner school environments.

Key takeaways highlighted the potential of school feeding to drive climate action, improve nutrition outcomes, and strengthen community ownership.

The exchange demonstrated how Brazilian experiences can be effectively adapted to local contexts through SSTC.

Looking ahead, partners committed to maintaining close collaboration with local stakeholders to ensure the effective use of the technologies and to produce technical documentation that will facilitate expansion and shared learning among countries.



Photo: WFP/Leticia do Valle

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

Strengthening Nutrition Policies in Africa Through Regional SSTC

In September, the [Africa Rice Center \(AfricaRice\)](#) and CERFAM convened a regional workshop in Abidjan.

The meeting gathered 24 participants, including 15 government officials from the Ministries of Health and Agriculture of Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Uganda.

The initiative is part of a six-year the EU-funded programme [HealthyDiets4Africa](#), supporting healthier and more diverse food systems across the continent.

The workshop aimed to strengthen national nutrition policy frameworks through SSTC knowledge exchange, focusing on a comparative analysis of nutrition policies across seven domains, including food labelling, food composition standards and fiscal measures.

Participants also reviewed successful policy experiences from Africa and beyond, including restrictions on marketing unhealthy foods to children, front-of-pack "traffic light" labels, salt and trans-fat limits, sugar-sweetened beverage taxes, and meat fat-content regulations.

The workshop provided a platform for countries to exchange experiences, review progress, and propose practical solutions.

Delegations shared updates on recent policy reforms, including expanded fortification, strengthened school feeding, and improved regulation of breast milk substitutes.

They also addressed shared challenges, such as weak enforcement, limited coordination, and rising diet related health issues.

Through group discussions, participants identified priority actions to improve policy monitoring, strengthen public awareness, and encourage healthier food environments through taxes or incentives.

They also committed to acting as national focal points to maintain momentum and ensure sustainability.

The inputs gathered during the workshop will guide concrete follow up actions to support countries address the identified gaps and challenges.

See more details [here](#).



Photo: CERFAM/Marina Mea

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

XI Central American and Caribbean Microfinance Conference

In June, Government representatives from Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, as well as WFP Guatemala CO joined the XI Central American and Caribbean Microfinance Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The event gathered regional financial actors committed to advancing inclusive, resilient and green financial systems.

Hosted by the Central American and Caribbean Microfinance Network (REDCAMIF) with the support of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the event highlighted the growing regional interest to expand financial inclusion, strengthen local economies and promote climate-responsive financial services.

Sessions featured key priorities aligned with WFP's disaster risk finance portfolio.

The priorities include: digital innovation for last mile service delivery, financial inclusion in rural areas, and the role of public-private partnerships in scaling sustainable solutions.

Strengthening Nutrition and Social Protection in Cuba Through SSTC Exchange with the Dominican Republic

In July, the Government of Cuba jointly with WFP conducted a SSTC mission to the Dominican Republic to exchange experiences on nutrition, food fortification and social protection programmes.

The initiative was organized by the COs in Cuba and the Dominican Republic in close collaboration with Cuba's Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP), the Institute of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology (INHEM), Dominican Ministry of Health, Early Childhood Care Institute (INAIFI), and the *Supérate* social protection programme.

The mission aimed to strengthen Cuba's national capacity to address anemia, improve nutrition surveillance, and enhance the design and delivery of targeted social assistance programmes.

Knowledge Exchange Between the Dominican Republic and Guatemala on Shock Responsive Social Protection

In August, the Dominican Republic's Single Beneficiary System (SIUBEN) and Guatemala's Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) participated in an online knowledge exchange organized by WFP Guatemala CO and the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO).

The dialogue focused on sharing operational lessons learned from the implementation of the Emergency Basic Form (FIBE).

The participants discussed challenges and operational considerations for improving emergency targeting, data quality and interoperability within adaptive social protection systems.

SIUBEN outlined the application of the FIBE, the process for collecting data through the form, the use of the classification and impact matrix for disasters, the identification and prioritization of affected individuals.

The conference included participatory workshops, technological forums, and network spaces, which facilitated peer learning among countries.

Moving forward, participants agreed on establishing a regional financial innovation group to follow up on proposals and explore new initiatives for SSTC focused on sustainable microfinance.



Photo: WFP/ Guatemala

During the visit, participants learned about the Dominican Republic's progress on front-of-pack nutrition labeling and its impact on reducing chronic diseases.

They also gained insights from the National Micronutrient Survey, revealing anemia prevalence and fortification gaps, and operational models of *Supérate*, combining conditional cash transfers with nutrition support, as well as early childhood strategies through INAIFI and integrated care centers.

Looking ahead, Cuba plans to organise technical training on food fortification, continue virtual exchanges to share best practice, and incorporate these initiatives into its national plan to prevent iron-deficiency anemia.

It also showcased the implementation of an Emergency Bonus for vulnerable situations, and the key challenges and lessons learned during the form's implementation.

The exchange provided MIDES with concrete insights on planning and executing rapid data collection, applying disaster impact classification tools, and prioritizing affected households when on-site assessments are not feasible.

Participants also reflected on lessons from implementing emergency cash transfers and strengthening institutional capacities for shock response.

Moving forward, WFP Guatemala CO aims to further promote SSTC exchanges with countries facing similar operational challenges to advance regionally coherent approaches to shock responsive social protection.

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

Guatemala and the Dominican Republic Advance Regional Learning on Social Protection Targeting Through SSTC

In August, Guatemala's MIDES and the Dominican Republic's SIUBEN participated in a virtual SSTC knowledge exchange.

The objective of the dialogue was to strengthen technical methodologies for identifying and prioritizing vulnerable households, improving programme efficiency, and enhancing the transparency of social assistance systems across the region.

Both governments presented their approaches to defining income thresholds, integrating multidimensional poverty indicators, and applying cleansing processes to maintain the accuracy and legitimacy of beneficiary registries.

Discussions highlighted several key areas of progress and shared learning. Participants examined targeting criteria, emphasizing the combined use of monetary and multidimensional poverty indicators, including variables such as housing conditions, education, and informal employment.

They also reviewed exit and continuity criteria, underscoring the need to validate formal income and strengthen administrative cross-checks to prevent leakage.

SIUBEN presented advances in technical instruments, particularly real-time interoperability and updated methodologies for periodic data revisions.

This exchange is particularly relevant as it demonstrates how the region is advancing toward more transparent, evidence-based systems, thereby strengthening the legitimacy and sustainability of social programmes.

As next steps, participants plan to organize an in-person exchange visit to the Dominican Republic, aimed at deepening technical collaboration and sharing operational experiences on social registry interoperability.

In addition, MIDES and SIUBEN will maintain the ongoing technical coordination to harmonize regional standards and continue building momentum for stronger social protection systems.

Regional School Feeding Forum Enhances Collaboration Across Latin America

In July, Government of Honduras jointly with WFP organized the Regional School Feeding Forum in Honduras.

The event aimed to strengthening school feeding as a platform for nutrition, education and local development.

During the event, Government representatives from 24 countries across Latin America, international financial institutions, academia, civil society and UN agencies exchanged experiences and advanced regional collaboration.

Guatemala's Ministry of Education presented the country's regional leadership as part of the School Meals Coalition, highlighting its school feeding programmes.

The presentation showcased progress in the programme coverage, budgeting and linkage with family farming.

These efforts were further supported by the findings of WFP Guatemala's Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis, which confirmed the importance of the School Feeding Programme as a key tool for improving health and nutrition.

The Forum reaffirmed the role of school feeding as an entry point to strengthen food systems and promote human capital development. It also offered a dedicated space to advance SSTC and leverage regional expertise.

Guatemala will continue promoting actions to fulfill its commitments under the School Meals Coalition.



Photo: WFP LACRO/ Honduras

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

Global School Meals Coalition Summit

In September, representatives of the Guatemala's Ministries of Agriculture and Education joined the [Second Global Summit of the School Meals Coalition](#) in Fortaleza, Brazil.

The Summit was convened by the Global School Meals Coalition with support from the Government of Brazil, and brought together around 80 member states and more than 60 partner organizations to take stock of progress and mobilize renewed commitments.

The objective of the Summit was to present country-level achievements and advances in school feeding, while fostering cooperation, dialogue, and exchange among member states.

Discussions emphasized the role of school meals as a driver of sustainable food systems transformation, the importance of securing long-term domestic financing, and the value of evidence-based investment through documented good practices.

South-South Exchange Advances Disaster Risk Management in the Andean Region

In October, Government representatives of the Dominican Republic, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador participated in a regional technical mission on Anticipatory Action (AA) that took place in Guatemala.

The initiative combined a regional exchange, organized by the German Red Cross, with a field mission facilitated by WFP Guatemala CO.

The objective of the mission was to strengthen technical capacities on AA through SSTC knowledge exchange, harmonization of triggers and thresholds, and the development of roadmaps for institutionalizing AA within national disaster risk management systems.

The mission brought together Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs), national disaster risk agencies, and climate services institutions from multiple countries.

During the visit, participants visited communities in Chiquimula where anticipatory interventions supported by Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) had been

For Guatemala, the Summit provided opportunities to hear perspectives from more than 50 countries, review emerging evidence, and reaffirm the importance of continued investment in school feeding.

It helped identify concrete opportunities to address national bottlenecks, particularly the challenge of strengthening the integration of local smallholder farmers into the school meals supply chain.

Exchanges highlighted the potential of linking local agricultural production with school feeding programmes to support rural development and improve students' nutrition.

Next steps include continued engagement through the Coalition's thematic initiatives, with a renewed focus on research, financing and technical assistance.

Guatemala will explore the lessons learned to advance strategies that promote smallholder inclusion, strengthen supply chains, and enhance the long-term sustainability of the national school feeding programme.

activated, including early assistance measures and parametric microinsurance solutions.

They also engaged with Agroclimatic Technical Tables (MTAs), which provide climate-informed decision-making support and guide anticipatory measures across Central America.

Key takeaways included the value of peer-to-peer learning through combined workshops and field observations.

The initiative also underscored the importance of inter-institutional collaboration, data interoperability and innovative risk management tools.

The mission demonstrated how SSTC can accelerate adoption of anticipatory approaches, reducing vulnerability and improving preparedness for climate-related shocks.

Next steps include a technical visit by the Guatemalan Government representatives to the Dominican Republic to learn about shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) and risk management, including tools such as ANACAONA¹.



Photo: CEPREDENAC and German Red Cross

¹ ANACAONA is a real time monitoring and risk analysis platform used by the Government of the Dominican Republic to identify vulnerable zones and affected populations during emergencies, supporting rapid and informed decision making.

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

Guatemala Advances Inclusive Insurance and Disaster Risk Financing Through Regional Knowledge Exchange

In October, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) of Guatemala together with the WFP Guatemala CO participated in the Inclusive Insurance International Conference in Quito, Ecuador.

The conference is a key platform bringing together insurance regulators, insurers, and development partners committed to expanding risk management solutions for vulnerable populations across emerging markets.

The initiative was organized by the Ecuadorian Federation of Insurance Companies (FEDESEG), the Financial Policy and Regulation Board (JPRF), and the Superintendence of Companies, with support from the Munich Re Foundation and the Microinsurance Network.

The initiative aimed to identify strategies to scale inclusive insurance as part of broader resilience-building efforts.

Discussions emphasized the importance of flexible regulatory frameworks to enable innovation, the role of digitalization in expanding last-mile access, and the value of public-private partnerships to strengthen financial protection for at-risk households.

The event provided strategic platform to position microinsurance and anticipatory action initiatives that are being implemented jointly by the Guatemala's Government and WFP.

The initiatives offer cost-effective tools that complement social protection systems and enhance the government's disaster-risk financing portfolios.

Next steps include establishing a regional working group to advance recommendations and explore SSTC opportunities to expand inclusive insurance models across Latin America.



Photo: WFP/ Guatemala

Strengthening Social Protection Through Collaboration Between Cuba and Brazil

Throughout 2025, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS) of Cuba and the Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger (MDS) of Brazil strengthened collaboration to enhance social protection programmes.

Supported by WFP and FAO, leveraging WFP Brazil CoE platform and [WFP's social protection portfolio](#), the initiative falls under PROSOCIAL, a WFP-supported programme aimed at improving targeting mechanisms and refining Cuba's social protection system, with a strong emphasis on food and nutrition security.

Within this framework, technical cooperation between the two countries is being strengthened by drawing on Brazil's extensive experience in social protection, as well as by creating opportunities for SSTC through technical exchanges and knowledge sharing.

Cuba authorities in coordination with Brazil are designing the country's Implementation Plan for the [Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty](#), where this initiative will be featured.

Although the process is still ongoing, the collaboration is already reinforcing institutional capacities and positioning Cuba within a regional platform committed to ending hunger and poverty through SSTC.

These exchanges have helped shape Cuba's Implementation Plan, ensuring it aligns with global good practices, regional priorities and the principles of the Alliance.

By supporting Governments in this effort, WFP aims to catalyse joint action that strengthens social protection systems across Latin America.

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

Advancing Anticipatory Action Through SSTC Exchange Between Cuba, Guatemala and Peru

In November, the Government of Cuba and WFP hosted a "Workshop on Lessons Learned and Good Practices in AA" in Havana, bringing together national institutions and international partners to strengthen capacities for early action against extreme climate hazards.

The event was organized by WFP in coordination with Cuba's National Civil Defense, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment, and other key agencies.

The main objective was to exchange experiences and best practices on activating AA for droughts and floods, with a focus on food and nutrition security.

Particularly, discussions included lessons from Guatemala's drought response and Peru's flood preparedness, as well as Cuba's recent activation of anticipatory measures during Hurricane Melissa.

Key takeaways underscored how AA reduces disaster impacts by enabling early interventions before shocks.

Andean Community of Nations Launch Community of Practice on Disaster Risk Financing

In October, Government representatives from Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia as well as the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) and WFP joined the First Forum of the Community of Practice on Financial Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Management in the Andean Region.

The event was organized by WFP in partnership with CAN and with support of the Swiss Cooperation.

This initiative aims to foster technical and political dialogue to strengthen public policies for local resilience through strategic, inclusive, and sustainable financial planning.

Participants emphasized how through SSTC, countries can accelerate learning, pool resources, and scale effective approaches regionally.

This collaborative approach strengthens resilience by enabling governments to share experiences and adapt proven solutions to their own contexts, fostering innovation and solidarity across Latin America.

Building on this momentum, Cuba will advance the implementation of its AA framework for drought, supported by the multidisciplinary group, while exploring opportunities for regional collaboration to scale up anticipatory approaches.

These efforts aim to ensure timely and effective interventions for vulnerable communities while promoting knowledge exchange and joint action among partner countries.

The forum highlighted the urgent need to treat disaster risk as an economic variable guiding investment decisions, especially in a region vulnerable to climate-related hazards.

The Swiss Ambassador to Peru reaffirmed Switzerland's commitment to supporting this effort.

As a next step, the initiative seeks to strengthen formal engagement from the Government counterparts.

A digital platform will be launched to facilitate the ongoing knowledge exchanges. This platform will host national resources and support six additional forums through 2027, with the next scheduled for March 2026.



Photo: Comunidad Andina

Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Jordan Strengthens Shock-Responsive Social Protection Through SSTC with China

In October, representatives from Jordan's Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), the National Aid Fund (NAF), the Food Security Council, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) and the Jordan Meteorological Department (JMD) participated in a South-South study visit to China to learn from its experience in SRSP.

The visit was organized by WFP China CoE and WFP Jordan CO to support SSTC knowledge exchange as the Government of Jordan begins developing its own SRSP standard operating procedures.

The objective of the mission was to understand the foundational building blocks of an effective SRSP system and observe how China has operationalized these tools in real emergencies.

Throughout the visit, the delegation engaged in technical discussions on China's drought disaster risk evaluation, pre-flood early warning systems, and scientific approaches to disaster management.

Participants also attended a Workshop on Community-Based Emergency Response and Rescue Practice, where they reviewed early warning triggers, community preparedness models, and integrated satellite systems used for emergency coordination.

Uganda's Study Visit to South Africa to Strengthen Disability-Inclusive Social Protection

In October, the Government of Uganda conducted a study visit to South Africa to learn from its experience in integrating disability inclusion into social protection systems.

The Ugandan delegation included representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), the Ministry of Health, the National Planning Authority, and the Parliament of Uganda.

This SSTC initiative aimed to draw lessons from South Africa's experience in designing and implementing disability benefits, including case management, registration processes, and health services for children with disabilities.

Funded by the Government of Finland and organised by WFP, the visit brought together the Governments of Uganda and South Africa, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and other partner agencies working on social protection in both countries.

One of the highlights of the mission was the visit to the Sunshine Association, which demonstrated an innovative model of early childhood development and rehabilitation using Toy Libraries.

In addition, they saw how integrated rehabilitation centres in South Africa provide multiple therapy services under one roof, significantly reducing both the financial and logistical burdens on caregivers.

Additional sessions covered earthquake monitoring, real-time digital communication tools, and China's transition from emergency response to adaptive social assistance.

Key takeaways underscored the importance of institutionalizing crisis management and establishing strong coordination mechanisms across government entities.

Delegates highlighted the value of China's advanced digital systems for real-time data sharing, early warning dissemination, and rapid social assistance delivery.

These lessons can directly inform Jordan's policy development by integrating early warning tools into national social protection systems and strengthening digital interoperability among institutions.

Next steps include internal knowledge-sharing sessions within MoSD to present key findings and propose practical adaptations for Jordan, particularly on early preparedness, rapid response mechanisms and the digitalization of social services.

Looking forward, Governments will explore further technical exchange and technology transfer between China and Jordan, if feasible.

Through these experiences, the Ugandan delegation gained valuable lessons on how clear laws, well-designed programmes, and robust systems can make social protection more accessible to persons with disabilities.

The visit also highlighted the importance of institutional coordination and digital systems that ensure transparency and effective service delivery.

Uganda now plans to apply these lessons by strengthening its disability-inclusion frameworks, improving data and monitoring tools, and promoting community participation in programme design and implementation.

Looking ahead, the Government of Uganda will finalise the operational guidelines for the National Child Disability Benefit, develop standardised assessment tools in selected districts, and produce National Guidelines on Disability Inclusion in Social Protection. See more details [here](#).



Photo: WFP/Daniel Winter Putan

Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Institutionalizing Preparedness Across Southern Africa

In November, Government representatives of Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi convened in Sandton, Johannesburg, for a strategic dialogue on advancing urban preparedness in Southern Africa.

Partners from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, Southern Africa Emergency Operation Centre (SHOC), World Vision, CIMA Foundation and North-West University and Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO) also joined.

The event titled "Regional Stocktake on Progress, Partnerships, and Pathways for Scalable Urban Preparedness," was organized by WFP under the DG-ECHO funded [Regional Urban Preparedness \(RUP\) Project](#) Phase II.

During the stocktaking event, participants shared their experiences and lessons learned from Phase II of the project, discussed how integrated partnerships

strengthened urban preparedness, and brainstormed a potential sustainable exit strategy to empower government institutions to carry on the transformative changes.

After a full day of substantive discussions, partners identified key achievements and takeaways:

- The project strengthened urban preparedness institutional capacity and coordination of the participating SADC member states.
- Governments noted enhanced urban Vulnerability Assessment (VAA) systems, advanced risk mapping and flood modelling and improved pre-positioning and anticipatory action; as well as,
- Increased ownership and knowledge of urban preparedness protocols within local frameworks, including enhanced regional coordination and peer-learning.

Looking forward, stakeholders are idealising Phase III of the project as the sustainable exit strategy to handover the work done on urban preparedness to the Member States.



Photo: WFP/Alesia Rakuts

Strengthening Forecasting for Anticipatory Action: Djibouti-Ethiopia SSTC Exchange

In November 2024, the governments of Djibouti and Ethiopia, through their national meteorological agencies, participated in a South-South knowledge exchange facilitated by WFP.

This initiative aimed to enhance forecasting capabilities for AA in response to increasingly frequent and severe climate shocks in Eastern Africa.

The Djibouti National Meteorological Agency (DNMA) and the Ethiopia Meteorological Institute (EMI) led the exchange.

DNMA sought to improve its seasonal and sub-seasonal forecasting and drought monitoring capacities. EMI, with advanced experience in forecast-based triggers, shared its expertise, including the use of the Maproom tool developed with support from the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) and WFP.

During the exchange, DNMA representatives learned to generate and assess forecasts, monitor trigger thresholds, and contextualize climate data for AA readiness.

Key outcomes included strengthened technical collaboration, peer-to-peer learning, and regional integration. The exchange also contributed to WFP's broader strategy under the [Early Warning for All \(EW4A\)](#) initiative.

Next steps involve DNMA applying new skills to improve forecasts, continued remote support from EMI, and joint research to identify optimal predictive models.

This partnership marks a significant step toward resilient, climate-informed disaster risk management in Eastern Africa.

More details on the exchange are [here](#). To learn more about SSTC in AA, have a look at [this article](#).

Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

India Launched an Initiative to Strengthen Rice Fortification and Supply Chains in Nepal

In August, the Government of India jointly with WFP launched a collaborative project to strengthen rice fortification and supply chain management in Nepal.

Supported by the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, the initiative falls under the [India-UN Global Capacity-Building Initiative](#) and reinforces the longstanding partnership between India and Nepal and highlights SSTC as a strategic partnership mechanism that helps building resilient food systems.

The 12-month programme aims to enhance Nepal's capacities in procurement, data management, and fortified rice supply chains by drawing on India's experience with

the national [Public Distribution System](#) and large-scale fortification rollout.

The project will be delivered in three phases: i) a comprehensive needs assessment, ii) structured study visits to India for government officials, and III) the development of a tailored action plan to adapt and apply India's learnings to Nepal's context.

For Nepal, the initiative presents an opportunity to accelerate national fortification targets and enhance the resilience of its food systems.

See more details [here](#).

India Hosted High-Level Roundtable to Advance SSTC

In August, Government representatives from Ghana, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and Timor-Leste gathered at the Roundtable on SSTC—a high-level dialogue to strengthen collaboration across the Global South, hosted by WFP India CO in New Delhi.

The objective of the Roundtable was to deepen partnerships between India and fellow developing countries, explore opportunities for joint action, and identify areas for regional and global cooperation, including climate resilience, digital innovation, nutrition, and school meals.

India's national expertise, particularly in the Public Distribution System, fortified rice, and scalable school meal models, served as the basis for discussion.

Mr. Carl Skau, WFP Deputy Executive Director, joined the event underscoring India's evolution from food-aid recipient to global knowledge provider and proposed establishing a CoE on Food Security and Nutrition in India.

Participants also highlighted India's adaptable and cost-effective solutions shaping global practice, emphasized India's demand-driven approach to partnerships, and called for institutionalizing proven solutions as global public goods.

Ambassadors from partner countries shared their national priorities, reaffirming India's pivotal role in advancing shared progress toward Zero Hunger.

Next steps include exploring modalities for the proposed CoE and expanding structured SSTC initiatives to leverage India's innovations for global scale-up.



Photo: WFP/Sandali Singh

Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

Lao PDR Strengthens Rice Fortification Initiative with India

In November, Government representatives of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and Embassy of India in Vientiane, in collaboration with the WFP, officially inaugurated the National Committee on Rice Fortification.

This event marked a significant milestone in advancing rice fortification through a multi-sectoral coordination mechanism.

This initiative is part of the project "Strengthening Large-Scale Food Fortification in Lao PDR: The Case for Investing in Rice Fortification," a partnership between the India-UN Fund, the Government of Lao PDR and WFP.

The project aims to mainstream rice to address malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in the country leveraging SSTC and India's technical expertise.

The objective of the meeting was to formalize the establishment of the advisory and technical committee on rice fortification, define roles and responsibilities, and strengthen collaboration among stakeholders to ensure effective implementation.

During the meeting, participants also reviewed progress on recent activities, including the national workshop on rice fortification, technical training for rice millers on blending operations and quality assurance, and field assessments of mill readiness for the pilot phase.

The Kyrgyz Republic Strengthens School Feeding with the Commonwealth of Independent States

In November, the Ministry of Education of the Kyrgyz Republic, in partnership with WFP Kyrgyz Republic CO attended the 2nd International Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Forum "School Feeding as Investment in a Healthy Generation" in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

During the event, participants showcased the Kyrgyz Republic's experience in developing a school meals system, expanding access to hot meals, and enhancing the quality of menus.

Since 2013, WFP has supported the Ministry in transitioning over 950 schools, nearly half of the country's 2,200 primary education institutions, from carbohydrate rich snacks to nutritious hot meals for primary schoolchildren.

Currently, more than 85 percent of schools nationwide provide hot meals to primary schoolchildren.

The forum served as a platform for international dialogue on best practices, discussing innovative approaches, and strengthening cooperation among CIS nations.

The event continued the strategic course set in 2023 at the 1st CIS School Meals Forum in Bishkek, bringing together representatives of national ministries of health and education from CIS member states to develop joint solutions and share best practices.

Members acknowledged the potential of rice fortification as a new initiative aligned with government priorities to reduce malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, emphasizing the critical role of private sector engagement for production and sustainability.

Looking forward, the Rice Fortification Technical Working Group will develop a legal framework, establish national rice fortification standards, design the pilot approach, and identify eligible rice mills for participation in the pilot project. In addition, local rice millers in Laos will receive technical support from Indian experts.

Furthermore, participants plan to organize a technical visit to India to gain insights from India's experience in the rice fortification programme.



Photo: WFP/Sengtavanh Keokenchanh

As a result of this Forum, CIS countries agreed to continue strengthening cooperation in school nutrition through sharing best practices, joint research, educational programmes and capacity development.

Participants recommended the creation of a joint regional Roadmap to guide the development of sustainable school meals systems.

In addition, they proposed establishing a unified electronic platform on best practices, research, regulations, training materials, and a registry of school meals equipment manufacturers.

This platform would foster cooperation chains, streamline knowledge exchange, and support the modernization of school feeding systems across the region.

See more details [here](#).



Photo: WFP/Aida Aftandilova

Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

Brazil Shares Experience in Rural Development Programmes and Home-Grown School Feeding with Pakistan

In December, ten Government officials from Pakistan participated in a two-week study visit in Brazil to learn from its experience in increasing income and enhancing the livelihoods of rural fishing communities and agricultural households.

The initiative was organized by the Government of Brazil, IFAD, WFP Brazil CoE and Pakistan CO under the [IFAD-funded Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihood Support Project \(GLLSP-II\)](#) and in collaboration with the Government of Balochistan, Pakistan.

The initiative aimed to share lessons learned from Brazil's experience in implementing rural development programmes and HGSF, IFAD's expertise in agricultural development, and WFP's work in food security, nutrition and school feeding.

During the visit, participants joined field visits in the State of Alagoas, Brazil, where they met with the family farming cooperatives and visited a state school to learn about the implementation of the National School Feeding Programme.

Cross-Country Learning Exchange in Pakistan Strengthening Social Protection for Nutrition

In December, Government representatives from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Niger, Timor-Leste and Pakistan participated in a cross-country learning exchange convened by the Global Task Force on Social Protection for Nutrition in Islamabad.

The event was co-hosted with the Governments of Pakistan and Timor-Leste and funded by France.

The initiative aimed to build shared commitment to making social protection policies and programmes more nutrition focused.

During the event, participants shared lessons and evidence on nutrition-sensitive social protection to strengthen national systems, explored innovations to combat malnutrition, and explored ways to enhance nutrition-sensitive policies and programmes.

They also participated in institutional meetings to discuss and understand national policies and regulatory mechanisms related to school feeding, social protection, climate change and environment, and smallholder farming and agriculture.

As next steps, Government of Balochistan, WFP Brazil CoE and IFAD plan to sign a Strategic Cooperation Action Plan.

This collaboration aims to advance joint progress on school meals and social protection by leveraging South-South exchanges as a key mechanism for knowledge sharing and technical assistance.

Looking forward, joint efforts will focus on strengthening and expanding sustainable school meals programmes in Balochistan, while also enhancing institutional capacities for policy design, institutionalization, financing, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of school meal systems.

Pakistan showed leadership in social protection and nutrition, offering lessons from the [Benazir Income Support Programme \(BISP\)](#)—a globally recognised model for poverty reduction and nutrition-sensitive social protection.

The event underscores the shared commitment of participating Governments and partners to combating hunger and malnutrition, reinforcing the leadership of the Global South in shaping the future of nutrition-sensitive social protection.

Country delegations developed a set of action priorities to advance work on nutrition-sensitive social protection. Building on this momentum, the Global Task Force for Nutrition will further explore opportunities for SSTC to strengthen and expand initiatives focused on nutrition-sensitive social protection. See more details [here](#).



Photo: WFP Library

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

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