



Photo: WFP/George Fominyen



**World Food  
Programme**  
Centre of Excellence  
against Hunger

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# **Annual Report 2020**

## Centre of Excellence against Hunger

March 2020

## Dear reader,

Despite the difficulties we are already familiar with, 2020 was a surprising and thought-provoking year.

It was the year in which the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the WFP in recognition of the tireless work of its employees, who are on the front line every day, bringing food to more than 100 million hungry people around the world. It was also the recognition of the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation to solve complex problems such as hunger.

Moreover, it was one of the most challenging years in history for the world's population. There is no country or territory that has not been affected directly or indirectly by the many negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially regarding socio-economic impacts, which threaten to cause setbacks and political losses for the global development gains of recent decades.

For us, it was not different. The restrictions imposed by the pandemic, which suddenly halted face-to-face activities, made travel impossible, and postponed field missions to 2021. We needed to adapt to fully continue the remote technical support activities started in person.

We saw ourselves challenged to accelerate and expand the digital transformations and the Remote Assistance methodology our team had already adopted since 2019. We used it to promote the sustainability of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in supporting countries, as well as to scale up national school feeding programmes, especially through the power of remote assistance to promote considerable cost reduction, decrease physical barriers, and create a stable and cost-effective environment for post-crisis planning.

As a result of COVID-19 control measures, at least 310 million schoolchildren were left with no meals in 162 countries during some part

of 2020. To reduce the negative impacts of school closures, South-South Cooperation, as a means of knowledge exchange and technical assistance, was able to contribute to the adaptation and resilience of school feeding programmes and in the process of safely reopening schools. Remote Assistance was an innovative method to enable, facilitate, and promote exchanges between Brazil and other developing countries even in the pandemic context.

Also in 2020, the Brazilian government, through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was supported by the WFP Centre of Excellence in



Brazil and the WFP offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America in several humanitarian cooperation actions to support countries in their plans to combat COVID-19.

It is true that 2020 brought great challenges and made social inequalities even more evident, but it also brought important learning experiences, development opportunities, and showed that we need to express solidarity, join efforts, and invest in a sustainable future – now more than ever.

We have entered the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving the 17 goals has never been more important. Faced with the negative impacts of the pandemic and with less than 10 years to go before we can achieve the ambitious goals set by the international community, it is essential that we intensify and coordinate our actions and efforts more and better to continue saving and, above all, changing lives.

In this sense, the Centre of Excellence paved the way for a new phase of partnerships with NGOs, local governments, and the private sector to increasingly support actions to combat hunger within Brazil in 2020. It was also a year of creating new projects, such as “Nurture the Future”, which will join efforts from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru in the fight against childhood obesity and malnutrition.

For 2021, we will focus our efforts on continuing the Remote Assistance work for countries in the areas of school feeding and smallholder farming, increasing internal and external advocacy work in favour of public policies that support sustainable food and nutrition security systems. The “Beyond Cotton” project will begin its implementation phase. New partnerships with governments, NGOs, and the private sector will provide new opportunities and ways to face the complex challenges of fighting hunger together.

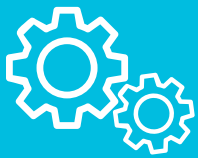
2021 will also be special because it is when we will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil. We invite everyone to celebrate this special and remarkable moment in our history with us, revisit the many positive results achieved in this period, reflect on the paths we took and on our future, always keeping our greatest goal in mind: to end hunger worldwide.

**Daniel Balaban**

*WFP Representative in Brazil and  
Director of the Centre of Excellence against Hunger*







## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Remote assistance to 6 countries



Indonesia



Mozambique



Nepal



Lesotho



The Gambia



São Tomé and Príncipe

Knowledge exchange services to WFP Regional Bureaux in Africa. Special attention to the Regional Bureau in Dakar, supporting the development of projects with 19 countries.



**15**  
PUBLICATIONS



**13**  
SEMINARS  
and technical workshops



**12**  
LIVESTREAMS  
with media and influencers

## Nurture the Future NEW PROJECT LAUNCHED



### NEW PARTNERSHIPS

with the private sector, NGOs, and local governments



### 20 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS SIGNED FOR FOOD DONATION CAMPAIGNS FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY COVID-19.

Campaigns reached 13 states and the Federal District, with more than 600,000 Brazilians benefited with food (baskets and vouchers) and hygiene kits



### 20 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA,

Asia and Latin America benefited from humanitarian donations made by the Brazilian government with logistical/operational support from the Centre of Excellence and WFP Country Offices

## THISWEEK



weekly newsletter that reaches more than 1,500 people on all continents



## COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS IN 2020

66,855 visits to the Centre of Excellence website  
22,600 Facebook followers | 17 videos  
4,800 Instagram followers | 20 publications  
117 published articles



# WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil **Activities**

# 1 WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil Activities

Remote Assistance combines the global know-how of the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil with the valuable knowledge of the Brazilian experience in food and nutrition security and social protection to promote remote technical assistance to countries. This way of working seeks to support the design, implementation, and delivery of high-quality school feeding programmes; connect these programmes with smallholder agriculture and childhood health and nutrition; and facilitate field operations according to each Country Strategic Plan.

In this process, the Centre of Excellence's technical team assesses the needs and proposes a package for remote technical support. The exchange may involve sharing knowledge through publications; online meetings; review of relevant documents; country-specific webinars; training and capacity-building videos; remote participation in missions, events, workshops, and seminars; and face-to-face events, if demands and funding are available.

At the Centre of Excellence, Remote Assistance has changed how we operate in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). This digital transformation has replaced frequent air travel, prospecting missions, and other extended stays in partner countries, which were needed to promote technical and consultation services, partnerships, advocacy, and knowledge exchanges through SSTC. Remote assistance is an opportunity for countries seeking comprehensive, adaptable, and agile support for a low cost, especially while under pandemic constraints.

Moreover, remote assistance allowed the Centre of Excellence to maintain technical and advisory services to cooperating countries and WFP country offices, even with the impossibility of carrying out face-to-face activities. The specific results of this work are evidenced in the following topics.



Photo: WFP/George Fominyen



# 1.1. Advisory Services and Technical Assistance

## *Technical support to countries*

### **Indonesia: Remote Assistance methodology**

Since discussions that began in 2019, when representatives from both offices met in Siem Reap, Cambodia, for the Global Child Nutrition Forum, WFP Indonesia and the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil have been working jointly to support the national government to strengthen the nutrition improvement for school-aged children. With the COVID-19 crisis, schools around the world were closed and school feeding programmes were suspended, which impacted millions of children's health and nutrition. As part of their efforts to mitigate the pandemic's effects on nutrition for school-aged children, Indonesia requested support from the Centre of Excellence to support the policy dialogues and advocacy for a new strategic plan for improvement of

nutrition for school-aged children and prepare its parameters for the reopening of schools.

Given the new context of the global pandemic, the Centre's support work happened remotely and, in the beginning, only between WFP offices. These virtual exchanges started in 2020 and will continue in 2021. They happen through technical sessions that present good practices in school feeding and nutrition for school children to the WFP Indonesia country office.

The project relies on direct support from the WFP Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division (PRO) in their efforts to foster the use of Virtual South-South Cooperation to overcome challenges brought on by COVID-19.



### **Mozambique: programme design and adaptation**

The WFP Centre of Excellence has been working with the Mozambican government since 2011 as part of its partnership with the Brazilian government, providing technical assistance to the National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE) and, more recently, strengthening capacities to promote the complete transition of the programme management to the government.

The Centre of Excellence provided support to the country through the remote assistance modality, collecting information and creating advocacy materials to subsidize government discussions on intersectoral committees and on the adaptation of school feeding to the COVID-19 pandemic context. The support from the Centre of Excellence

contributed to the continuity of school feeding in 130 Mozambican schools during the suspension of onsite classes throughout 2020, benefiting more than 66,000 students and their families. In December 2020, the Government of Mozambique relaunched the PRONAE Technical Council to strengthen the programme's intersectoral coordination.

In 2020, there was an average increase of 25% in enrolments in schools that benefit from the emergency school feeding programme provided to 81 schools affected by Cyclone Idai, in Sofala province. This emergency programme was carried out with technical support from the Centre of Excellence.

## Lesotho: implementation strategies

In August 2019, the Centre of Excellence began a process of supporting the WFP Country Office in Lesotho and the country's government to strengthen capacities of the School Feeding Secretariat. The goal of this cooperation was to propose a sound strategy for WFP to transfer part of the management of the school feeding programme it has been implementing to the government of Lesotho.

As the first product of this process – and under supervision of WFP Lesotho –, the Centre of Excellence prepared a technical document to create a school feeding management structure within the Ministry of Education. The Ministry and the WFP must evaluate the document to agree on the next steps.

## Gambia: resource mobilization

Following a joint work with The Gambia in 2019, which designed, prepared and submitted a resource mobilization project for agriculture and social assistance, the WFP Centre of Excellence's technical team supported the WFP Country Office and the Government of The Gambia in a process of creating and maintaining national working groups – with a technical and ministerial level of decision-making – on how to conduct international resource mobilization for agriculture and school feeding. The WFP Centre of Excellence supported the country mainly with its application to the international multilateral fund for fragile States, the GAFSP (Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme).

Several methods were applied in the process. Optimizing remote assistance, webinars, calls, and weekly exchanges by electronic means were key to prepare documents, advocacy strategies, and changes necessary to the project for submission to GAFSP. The project, which includes linking the country's School Feeding Programme with the national agricultural sector, food production, and market access for small farmers, was approved by the GAFSP Technical Advisory Committee and Coordinating Unit in April 2020.



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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_1986](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_1986)

