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World Food Programme

Centre of Excellence against Hunger



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EMPOWERING COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER

THE WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER (CoE) IS A GLOBAL HUB FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER

The WFP Centre works closely with regional and national stakeholders (governments and institutions) to expand food and nutrition security policies and programmes from a multi-sector perspective, particularly social safety net programmes that include school feeding linked to local agriculture and nutrition. Starting from the Brazilian experience in this area, the WFP Centre fosters food and nutrition security solu-tions for countries to deliver long-term development benefits for children and vulnerable populations in the Global South.

DEVELOPING CAPACITIES TO DELIVER ZERO HUNGER ON THE GROUND

Achieving a world without hunger is part of the global development agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by UN member states in 2015. SDG 2 sets to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030. More specifically, its goals are to: end hunger, attain food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

World Hunger is on the rise. Evidence from the "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018" report confirms this fact. The number of people who suffer from hunger has been growing since 2015, returning to levels from almost a decade ago. In absolute terms, this translates into 821 million undernourished or chronically hungry people in 2017, 1 in 9 people worldwide, with higher incidence of food insecurity in Africa and Asia.

Children constitute one of the most affected

groups by malnutrition. Nutrient deprivation has an immense impact on the health status of children, affecting their physical and psychosocial development, as well as impacting their future opportunities and productivity. Stunting among children remains unacceptably high. In 2017, almost 151 million children under five (22 percent) were stunted. In Africa, the situation is particularly worrying in the sub-Saharan region, where an estimated 24 percent of the population reportedly suffered from chronic food deprivation in 2017. In addition, more than 38 million children under five are overweight.

Tackling poor nutrition contributes to stronger health in populations and their economies.

The "Cost of Hunger in Africa" study, already conducted in 14 countries, indicates that economies from these nations suffer an estimated annual loss associated with child undernutrition equivalent to 1.9 percent to 16.5 percent of GDP.

Investing in human capital can build up significantly a country's competitiveness in a fast-changing world. Developing human capital provides workforces for the more highly-skilled jobs of the future, which can push for more continued growth and renovate the direction of economies. Human capital is essential for a country's future, in terms of people, economies, societies, and for global balance. When countries fail to invest effectively in human capital, the costs are massive, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable people.

SCHOOL FEEDING IS A KEY DRIVER OF CHILD NUTRITION AND A HIGH RETURN INVESTMENT IN A COUNTRY'S HUMAN CAPITAL AND LOCAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

Research shows that school feeding is cost-effective and offers multiple and multi-sectoral benefits. School feeding programmes have important impacts in children's education, health and nutritional status. School feeding improves vulnerable people's food security and nutrition, and strengthens smallholder agriculture. When school feeding programmes purchase food from local markets, they have the potential to enhance farmers' access to income-generating activities, diversify national food production, generate stabilizing impacts on local agricultural production, and contribute to local economic development. School feeding supports local capacities to withstand and recover from shocks, and boosts local economies via home-grown school feeding.

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School feeding can help maximize the returns investments in education. School feeding programmes facilitate access to school, increase enrolment and attendance rates, and improve performance through better nutrition, health and cognitive development of children. These programmes can also foster healthier eating habits among children and their families contributing to curb the multiple nutrition burden most countries face. Improving nutrition is essential to ensure healthy, productive lives for all.

International experiences showcase that health and education walk in parallel. Although developing human capital depends upon a high-level education, health and nutrition are also required for children to be able to benefit and learn in school. It has been established that adequate school feeding and including other social safety nets not only support education, but also health initiatives.

School feeding programmes can narrow gender gaps and help break the vicious cycle of

discrimination against girls. Girls struggle more than boys for access to education; one in every ten girls in the world is out of school, while with boys this figure is one in twelve. Women and girls are also more exposed to hunger and malnutrition than boys; they represent 60 percent of all undernourished people in the world. When adolescent girls are out of school, they are more vulnerable to forced marriage, early pregnancy, violence and even human trafficking.

WFP assessments demonstrate that school feeding is a profitable investment.

These reports present a cost-benefit ratio ranging from a minimum of 3:1 to a maximum of 10:1. These calculated returns were validated to account for different modalities and contexts of implementation (emergency, crisis and development) across countries.

WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IS A GLOBAL HUB FOR POLICY DIALOGUE AND SOUTH-SOUTH LEARNING IN SCHOOL FEEDING, NUTRITION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMES

WFP is the UN organization leading efforts on school feeding globally. WFP's vision is to ensure that all vulnerable school children are free from hunger and are well nourished and healthy, so they can learn and reach their full potential, thus benefiting their families and their communities.

WFP CoE, with its innovative and cost-effective model, supports governments in developing their national zero hunger solutions. Through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), it supports countries with technical assistance and capacity development. As a premise, the WFP CoE joins forces and taps on countries' experience to deliver results in time to reach the SDGs by 2030. SSTC has presented cost-effective results in the long-term, since it builds governmental capacity to deal with the country's challenges and strengthens resilience, progressively decreasing the country's needs for international assistance.

WFP CoE was established in 2011 to assist developing countries in strengthening their national food and nutrition security frameworks.

As a catalyst for social development, the South-South cooperation work conducted by the Centre contributes to accelerate social transformation processes by supporting the creation of sustainable national social protection policies, such as the ones promoting school feeding and smallholder farming. The strategy that connects various social protection policies including school feeding – with food purchases from smallholder farmers has proven its effectiveness in fighting rural poverty, increasing food security and the nutritional status of policy beneficiaries, farmers and their families, and valuing local food habits. Government food procurement from smallholder farmers creates a stable demand that favours increased and improved agricultural production.

WFP CoE technical assistance indirectly benefits more than 4 million school-going children and has the potential to reach thousands of smallholder farmers participating in school feeding programmes.





The WFP Centre develops countries' capacities to deliver zero hunger on the ground.

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Inspired by Brazil's experience in fighting hunger, the WFP CoE continuously supports 30 countries to strengthen their capacities. Further, it has engaged with 75 countries worldwide, contributing to their national solutions for achieving SDGs 2 and 17. In 2018, WFP CoE's concrete outcomes include 18 countries with enhanced national school feeding programmes, policies and system components.

WFP CoE focuses on countries requests.

While delivering its SSTC programme, the WFP Centre responds to requests by partner country governments to help identify, capture and package their national solutions related to the Centre's mandate and scope, and share these solutions with peers. For that, WFP CoE offers advice and various types of support to governments such as drafting legislation, developing institutional plans, supporting pilots' elaboration and roll-out, country-level strategies, elaboration of programmes, policies and legislation, organization of public consultations and workshops, dialogue with stakeholders, trainings, and implementation actions towards nationally-owned sustainable programmes.

As governments begin putting plans into action to create or improve social protection programmes such as school feeding, they identify new demands. Such demands push the WFP Centre of Excellence to renew its ways of providing capacity strengthening initiatives to countries. Fostering regional cooperation networks and partnerships is one of the highlights of the Centre's work. SDG 17 addresses strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. Support in public policies, technical assistance and knowledge-building activities offer countries the means to advance in the fight against hunger. The WFP Centre offers public policy dialogue opportunities for both government staff and decision makers, always involving multiple sectors.

WFP COE PROMOTES SDG 17 TARGETS THAT SUPPORT GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE SDG 2 BY VARIOUS FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION INITIATIVES

Countries are reaching SDG 2 results faster. Several countries have advanced their national programmes and are moving closer towards achieving SDG 2 by strengthening normative frameworks or expanding programmes. Partner countries have also counted with the support from the WFP Centre in the establishment of frameworks and mechanisms to enable purchase of food from smallholder farmers, in addition to support in areas as targeting and cost analysis.

Countries are also reaching SGD 17 targets

sooner. In parallel to the SDG 2, the WFP Centre also promotes SDG 17, which addresses strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. This objective includes goals related to finance, technology, trade, and to capacity strengthening, through cooperation among countries. Support in public policies, technical assistance and knowledgebuilding activities offer countries the means to advance in the fight against hunger.

High-level policy dialogue and advocacy is at the heart of the Centre's work.

The WFP Centre promotes the involvement of high-level government actors in school feeding initiatives, also offering public policy dialogue opportunities for both government staff and decision makers, always involving multiple sectors, and thus, increasing countries' commitment to school feeding. For example, through SSTC, the WFP Centre works closely with the African Union Commission to mobilize support, knowledge and resources for school feeding throughout the African Continent. Another interesting example of the WFP Centre's direct efforts in supporting countries include co-hosting the Global Child Nutrition Forum – GCNF, the largest gathering of school feeding experts in the world.







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Partnerships have never been more important for international cooperation. Today's challenges are too complex for any organization to tackle alone. A revitalized Global Partnership to deliver on all the SDGs facilitates an intensive global engagement, bringing together governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors, and mobilizing and utilizing all available resources, to transform the world for the better by 2030.

The SDGs are global in nature and universally applicable, but communicate directly with policies and actions on the regional and local levels. To ensure the achievement of the targets established by the SDGs, it is essential to encourage action by local rulers and administrators, a principle which governs all actions of the WFP Centre of Excellence. The countries with which the Centre has been working perceived the importance of regional articulation to turn their plans to create and implement sustainable school feeding programmes into reality.

WFP CoE recognizes that the achievement of SDG 2 depends on effective partnerships in line with SDG 17. Governments alone cannot finance the results called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The private sector and civil society have an increasingly important role to play in facilitating new solutions through funding, innovation, and capacity strengthening.

WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE APPROACH

The approach of the WFP Centre of Excellence is to support national governments in the strengthening of their national social programmes through the promotion of exchanges with other countries, best practices and capacity development. The WFP Centre is demand-driven, promoting country ownership of social programmes through horizontal dialogue with partner countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The Centre's comprehensive knowledge and skills are used to support countries build accountable, efficient government institutions in school feeding programs to assist development in ways that will benefit their population over the long term. The Centre offers advice and support governments in the preparation of documents, such as draft legislation, institutional development plans, country-level strategies, and implementation action plans in school feeding programs.

The WFP Centre responds to capacity gaps identified through an assessment process that is led by the partner government, facilitated by the Centre, and supported by other partners, and in response, the Centre can also assist governments to shape or put new policies and programs in place, such as a sustainability plan for a school feeding program or a transition strategy towards a national school feeding program.

This includes offering nationally-tailored technical assistance and capacity strengthening to support individual government capacities in policies and legislation, institutional accountability, strategic planning and financing, national programme design and delivery and engagement and participation of non-state actors.



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EMPOWERING COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER

WHAT WE DO

- Country Capacity Strengthening
- South-South and Triangular Cooperation

HOW WE WORK

- Technical and Advisory Services
- Partnerships
 Promotion
- Knowledge Services
- Advocacy Services

AREAS OF WORK

- Home-Grown
 School Feeding
- Social Protection and Safety Nets
- Nutrition
- Smallholder Farmers and Supply Chain

Demand for the WFP Centre technical and advisory services must be articulated around national development priorities, critical needs and available resources. Appropriate sustainable food security and nutrition solutions are jointly decided by the national government and all development partners.

In terms of its Knowledge Hub and Advocacy Activities and in collaboration with countries and development partners, the WFP Centre's staff gather and evaluate information (data, policies and statistics) about the existing environment related to the thematic work related to the Centre's mandate, such as economy, government institutions or social services systems related to school feeding, smallholders' farmers, nutrition or social safety nets. This data provides a starting point for policy and strategic discussions with countries and helps enhance a country's capacity and knowledge for national school feeding programmes. Studies, researches and analytical reports help the WFP Centre support countries to plan and implement effective school feeding programs.

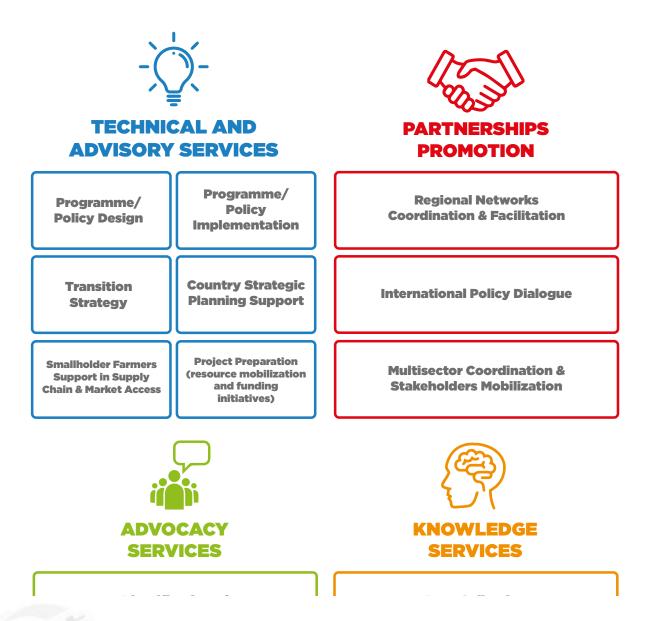
Fostering regional cooperation and partnerships is at the heart of the Centre's agenda, with the Sustainable Development Goals providing the political impetus. Partnerships are an essential part of the work of the Centre, which was born from a strategic partnership between the World Food Programme and the Government of Brazil.





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WFP CENTRE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES



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