

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Photo: WFP/Felipe Sandrini



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

ANNUAL REPORT | 2019

Dear reader,
Welcome to another year of
WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil



Since 2011, the Centre has been working hard so that together we can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) aligned with SDG 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise partnerships), recognizing that we will only be able to achieve them through effective partnerships. We have also worked to support countries through trilateral South-South cooperation, allowing the exchange of technical knowledge, experiences and skills with the support of donors or multilateral organizations such as WFP.

We work to support countries through trilateral South-South cooperation, allowing the exchange of technical knowledge, experiences and skills

Even in the face of limited financial, human and political resources for international development, we recognise that governments continue to be the primary actors in human and social progress. Governments are the engines that pledge to keep the gears of transition and national ownership of programmes up and running. However, other private and public actors, both national and transnational, are increasingly called upon to also be part of this machinery that saves and changes lives. Special attention should be given to the private sector and civil society: both have an increasingly important role to play in facilitating new solutions through financing, innovation and capacity building.

With activities centred on actions related to nutrition and home-grown school feeding with a focus on family farming, the WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil has, over the years, expanded its partnerships, and in 2018 we started working with sustainable production within the Beyond Cotton Project. More recently, we have expanded our activities in the child nutrition area, focusing on combating the double burden of malnutrition.

Our work consists mainly of providing technical support and capacity building in development contexts in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In 2019, we promoted some structural changes to expand the scope of this work and face the increasingly scarce resources for development: we launched an online portfolio of services called Virtual Exchanges. We can now optimize the efforts of guidance and cooperation with countries, reducing costs and democratising access to knowledge. This new service portfolio is divided into four main areas: Technical and Advisory Services; Partnerships Promotion; Advocacy Services; and Knowledge Services. In this report, we present our main activities and results, already in this new format.



Photo: WFP/Natan Giuliano

With our support, several countries advanced their school feeding policies and programmes in 2019, as was the case of Bangladesh, which approved the national school feeding policy after the work started in 2012. With Burundi, we worked throughout 2019 to develop an Implementation Strategy for the National School Feeding Policy.

The Gambia, also as a result of our support, is mobilising international funds to continue its school feeding programme. Nepal, the pilot country for our remote assistance work, is advancing in nutrition and school feeding projects under the leadership of the WFP country office. Within the scope of the Beyond Cotton Project, Tanzania validated the diagnostic that will support the construction of a project for the country, the result of a joint work between the WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil and the WFP country office.

The Centre of Excellence is a partnership between the Brazilian government and WFP and, in 2019, we further strengthened our ties with our institutional partners, especially the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Brazilian National Education Development Fund (FNDE). We also actively participated in activities promoted by WFP headquarters and collaborated directly with the work of country offices.

Given the above, we can say that 2019 was the year of strengthening and expanding partnerships and innovation at the WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil. It was a year of important and hard work that will allow us to intensify our activities and actions in the coming years, especially as 2020 marks the beginning of the Decade of Action for the SDGs. With only 10 years to go before we can achieve the ambitious goals set by the international community, it is essential to intensify and coordinate our actions and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and continue to save and, mainly, to change lives.



Daniel Balaban

Director and Representative

WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil

**Virtual Exchanges launch:
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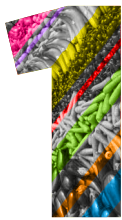




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Activities

WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil

The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil promotes food and nutritional security solutions, which results in long-term social and economic benefits for children and vulnerable populations in several developing countries. We work closely with national and regional partners (governments and institutions) to expand food and nutrition security policies and programmes with a multisectoral approach, particularly social safety net programmes that include home-grown school feeding systems.

What is the result of this effort? Technical support from the WFP Centre of Excellence indirectly benefits more than four million schoolchildren and has the potential to reach thousands of smallholder farmers who take part in school feeding programmes.

Our activities are centred around four main pillars: Technical and Advisory Services; Partnerships Promotion; Advocacy Services; and Knowledge Services. Learn more about the main products, services and activities performed by the WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil in 2019.



Photos: WFP/Felipe Sandrini

Technical support from the WFP Centre of Excellence indirectly benefits more than four million school children

1.1 Technical and Advisory Services

As part of a long-term cooperation strategy, technical assistance and advisory services from the WFP Centre of Excellence are often provided based on the results of a country needs assessment and planning process.

At the request of governments or WFP offices, we provide specialised and tailored technical assistance to support a series of policy processes within partner countries. This includes: the design or implementation of policies and programmes; the design and implementation of transition strategies; support to countries' strategic planning; supply chain services (focusing on benefits for smallholder farmers and producers); as well as preparing projects for resource mobilization. These processes can

be facilitated on-site or via remote assistance, through our Virtual Exchanges Methodology.

Activities include, among others, assistance in the development of legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, policy drafts, implementation, pilot projects and expansion planning, technical training, consultations and national strategies to promote the participation of local professionals and policy beneficiaries in different levels.

Throughout 2019, we assisted several countries in Asia and Africa with advisory and technical assistance services. We also promoted webinars and built partnerships for strategic exchange of experiences.



Programme and Policy Design

Responding to the evolving nature of food insecurity and international development assistance, the transition from “food aid” to “food assistance” has repositioned WFP, which has become not only a food supplier, but a creator of broader and more innovative solutions for the fight against hunger.

In this context, nine countries requested our support in the development of school feeding policies in 2019. In March, for example,

we visited Togo and prepared a technical note on their school feeding models. In Burundi, we organized a workshop in September to support the national school feeding strategy. Other countries that have also received guidance in the development of their national school feeding policies, among other social policies for food and nutrition security, are: Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Senegal, Nepal, The Gambia, Armenia, Philippines and Burkina Faso.

Programmes and Policy Implementation

Based on its experience in food and nutrition security, procurement, logistics and school feeding, the WFP Centre of Excellence works with governments to implement national policies and strategies for school feeding programmes with the purchase of food from local smallholder farmers.

In 2019, on a mission to Burundi, for example, we worked on the development of the Implementation Strategy for the National School Feeding Programme.



Transition Strategy

Successful national school feeding programmes are not created overnight. Working together with the regional bureau, country offices and WFP headquarters, our intention with this activity is to support national governments to improve the efficiency and sustainability of ongoing programmes and expand them as needed.

Thus, we support several countries in the preparation and implementation of transition initiatives. The goal of a transition strategy is to design a scaled process to allow responsibilities to shift more and more from WFP (and other external organisations) to national entities.

In this way, responsibilities related to managing, funding and successfully implementing a school feeding programme are transferred following the designed plan, with national entities gradually assuming responsibilities as their capacities are strengthened. It is essential that any transfer of school feeding programme is well planned and executed to avoid interruptions in service provision.

Within the theme of capacity building for an effective transition, our team carried out a mission to Lesotho to assess the country's institutional capabilities (needs assessment activity) and is supporting the country in the transition process from a policy that has been partially operated by the national WFP office for decades to an operation fully led by the government. The same applies to Laos, where we continued our support with analysis and submission of documents and technical manuals to assist the country in this moment of transition.

We also promoted the workshop "Transition and National Appropriation of School Feeding Programmes: approaches and experiences of local operators", during the 21st edition of the Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF), which took place in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in December. During the workshop, participants debated the theme at a global level, with a focus on building the human and technical skills necessary for this process. Topics covered included programme design, government engagement, dialogue building, among others.

Smallholder Farmers Support in Supply Chains & Market Access

School feeding is one of the main areas of cooperation of the WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil, as it allows for sustainable multisectoral development. We provide technical assistance for the development of nationally owned school feeding programmes as an efficient means of combating hunger and improving the educational, social and economic indicators of the 2030 Agenda.

An example of this service is the Beyond Cotton Project, a partnership between the WFP Centre of Excellence and the governments of Brazil, Benin, Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. Through South-South cooperation, the project aims to support smallholder farmers and public institutions to add value and link cotton by-products (linter, oil and cottonseed meal, derived from cotton seed) and intercropped plantations, linking production to school meals programmes, for example, and promoting public procurement policies, local or regional policies, as well as sales strategies. The objective is to improve production, local income, market access and food and nutritional security for smallholder farmers.

In 2019, the Beyond Cotton Project team was in Kenya and Tanzania to validate the project milestones in those countries. The mission to the Mwanza region, in northern Tanzania, had a workshop format and the objective was to validate the diagnostic of the cotton sector prepared by the WFP Centre of Excellence in collaboration with public institutions and cotton sector entities in the country and to define the project priorities. The focus of the

In Mozambique, the WFP Centre of Excellence, the University of Lavras (UFLA) of Minas Gerais, the Mozambique Cotton Institute and the local WFP office visited schools and smallholder farmers in the country in order to collect information to structure the logical matrix of the project. A team of experts was also in Kenya to share the initiative's strategy with local stakeholders and validate key aspects of implementation with the country.

We also organized a study visit to Benin to develop a specific project structure for the country with the local government that encompassed a vision of the entire cotton growing system, linking school feeding with a focus on local purchases, regenerative agriculture, nutrition, poverty reduction and local development.

In September, we promoted a webinar on national capacity-building initiatives to implement smallholder farming and school feeding programmes. In October, we promoted a face-to-face workshop focusing on the activities of the Beyond Cotton Project.

We have also started to develop partnerships with the Federal University of Lavras to act as a cooperating institution to support training programmes in some of the African countries that are part of the Beyond Cotton Project.

We also launched a partnership with the Diaconia NGO to exchange activities and experiences between Brazil and African countries, so that African smallholder farmers start to grow food, alternating with the cotton monoculture already present in the region. The experiences identified in the

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