



Photo: WFP/Richard Lee

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“To achieve the SDGs, a shared responsibility and collective efforts are vital. No single country, be it the most powerful or prosperous one, can push for such achievement alone. International cooperation, be it North-South, South-South, or triangular cooperation, are therefore essential and can serve as a universal push to transform our world. We all have to work together for it.”

[General Prayuth Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand]



**World Food
Programme**

**Policy and Programme Division (OSZ)
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WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

Supporting national school meals strategies in Zimbabwe and Botswana

(1) Zimbabwe starts preparation of national school meals strategy: Since the end of 2016, the [WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil](#) (WFP CoE Brazil) has been supporting the Government of Zimbabwe in developing a [national school meals strategy](#). After three missions to Zimbabwe to assess the status and potential of school meals in the country, the government conducted a **national school meals workshop** in June 2017. It marks the transition from the scoping stage to the elaboration of the strategy document. The aim of the workshop was (1) to engage different sectors in the discussion; and (2) to prepare an **action plan for Zimbabwe** to develop a national school meals strategy. The WFP Brazil CoE will continue to support the government in developing the strategy.

(2) Botswana works with the WFP CoE Brazil towards "Vision 2036": From 19 - 21 June, a ministerial delegation from Botswana engaged in a [study visit to Brazil](#) organized

by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Botswana, with support from the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil.

The focus of the visit was to learn about the Brazilian efforts to promote social development, food and nutrition security, including through school meals programmes. The discussions during the three-day visit will assist Botswana in pursuing its "[Vision 2036](#)", a 20-year plan that outlines what Botswana wants to achieve by 2036 to ensure prosperity for all its people.

The Government of Botswana expects to engage in technical cooperation with Brazil on issues such as policy development, support to smallholder farmers, and integration of different governmental sectors. To learn more, contact [Isadora FERREIRA](#) or [Christiani BUANI](#) (WFP CoE Brazil).

WFP China Centre of Excellence

Engagement with the BRICS and sharing of China's solutions to empower smallholders

(1) Meeting of BRICS Ministries of Agriculture: Upon the invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Sixi Qu, the Representative of WFP China Office, attended the **7th Meeting of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Ministers of Agriculture**. It was held in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, on 16 June 2017. The meeting gathered nine delegations from the five BRICS countries, as well as international organizations including FAO, WFP, IFAD and New Development Bank (NDB).

Dr. Qu was invited to address the Agricultural Cooperation Forum and shared the approach of the [WFP China Centre of Excellence](#) (WFP China CoE) to promote zero hunger through South-South cooperation. He presented the **progress of the WFP China Office in 2017** by highlighting the [launch of the China Country Strategic Plan](#) in March 2017 and the [South-South Cooperation Symposium](#) in Beijing. He also shared the strategic vision for the coming five years of WFP's engagement in China to support the government on the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals. To learn more, you can contact [Yan JIA](#) (WFP China Office).

(2) P4P Mission to China: From 31 May to 7 June, a mission from the OSZ's [Purchase for Progress](#) (P4P) Coordination Unit visited the WFP China Office. Options for providing technical assistance for smallholder farmers were discussed, building on China's [South-South Cooperation solutions](#) and



Farmers in Anhui Province, China. Photo: WFP/China

WFP's Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) Guidance.

During the mission, the P4P unit met with China's Ministry of Agriculture and State Administration of Grain, as well as with the WFP China Office and technical partners. A field trip to Heilongjiang Province helped to capture China's successful practices on **farmer organization operations, grain reserve systems and warehouse management**, which can be an inspiration for other developing countries.

As a **follow-up action**, WFP China CoE, OSZ's SSC team and P4P unit will jointly assist RBs and COs in formulating country projects to implement SSC actions in designated countries. To learn more, please contact [Gianluca Ferrera](#) (P4P Unit) or [Yan JIA](#) (WFP China Office).

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What is happening in the regions?

Latin America & the Caribbean: South-South Review in Honduras for CSP formulation

From 5 - 9 June 2017, the South-South cooperation team from WFP's Regional Bureau in Panama (RBP) and WFP Country Office in Honduras conducted a **South-South review to identify potential SSC engagement opportunities for WFP in Honduras**, in the context of the upcoming Honduras Country Strategic Plan (CSP).

Meetings with selected government counterparts of Honduras, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Inclusion and Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of the Environment, Permanent Commission for Contingencies, Ministry of Health, among others, helped to identify timely opportunities.

With the same [methodology](#) developed previously by OSZ and applied in Colombia, Peru and Guatemala, the South-South cooperation team developed three main products for the Country Office: **a) A "National Picture"** with an overview of the host government's current position as a partner for SSC and its priorities; **b) Identification of cooperation partners** and their national "SSC solutions" for each CSP Strategic Outcome Area; and **c) Overview of the top "South-South investment opportunities"** for WFP

Honduras to make progress on CSP strategic outcomes. Subsequently, the WFP Country Office in Honduras will rank the **"top 3" SSC investment opportunities** in order to include them in the formulation and implementation of their CSP. To learn more, please contact [Maria PINO](#) and [Carol MONTENEGRO](#) (SSC team, RBP).



Member of the Indigenous community in "Copán Ruinas", in Honduras. Photo: UN/Evan Schneider

In the Spotlight: SSC initiatives on national school meals strategies around the world



Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA) Programme

With its innovative intervention combining the operational and knowledge components among WFP, FAO, and Brazil, the **Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA)** programme has often been identified as a good example of South-South and triangular cooperation.



School meals in Senegal. Photo: WFP/Senegal

Building on the Purchase for Progress (P4P) experience, PAA Africa has enabled capacity-building, market access, and improved schoolchildren's diet diversification through nutrition-sensitive interventions among the five **partner countries: Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, and Senegal**. The programme is a collaboration between WFP, FAO, the Government of Brazil, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), and regional stakeholders, including national governments.

During March and April 2017, a **series of national/local level consultations** were held to discuss the experiences, lessons learned and adaptation of the most successful home-grown school meals models. The **main take-away of the consultations were:**

- (1) **In Mozambique**, a "step by step" approach was identified to scale up the national school meals programme to guarantee the programme's sustainability and effective implementation;
- (2) **In Ethiopia**, a set of recommendations to scale up home-grown school meals were identified;
- (3) **In Niger**, WFP and the government agreed on an action plan to support resource mobilization, share good practices, and issue guidance on quality and contractual standards;
- (4) **In Senegal**, areas of work were identified to continue WFP and FAO's support to the Government of Senegal;
- (5) **In Gambia**, PAA will be included in the National Social Protection Strategy funded by the government with 1.2% of the GDP and a plan to scale up to 3% before the end of this year;
- (6) **In Kenya**, PAA is supporting the government to put in place a policy framework and strategy to procure a proportion of food for public institutions directly from smallholder farmers.

To learn more, click [here](#) or contact [Gianluca FERRERA](#) (PAA Coordinator and P4P SSC focal point).



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What is happening in the regions?



Middle East and Northern Africa

A multi-stakeholder partner dialogue initiated by the WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo (RBC) in 2016 led to the official presentation of the [Regional Initiative for School Meals and Social Protection in the Middle East and North Africa](#) (MENA) region at the WFP Executive Board in Rome in February 2017.

This initiative aims at enhancing the effectiveness and broadening the coverage and impact of **school meals programmes as a key social protection instrument** in support of poor and vulnerable children in marginalized communities. A **multi-dimensional approach to school meals** and strong cooperation among governments and partners offer a unique opportunity to enable equitable learning and social protection of girls and boys. It can maximize the chances of every child to thrive and communities to prosper in the region.

The **key objective** of the initiative is to ensure that the most vulnerable girls and boys are reached with quality and high-impact school meals programmes responsive to local needs and linked to nutrition, education, health and social



Southern and Eastern Africa

The **Third Annual continental consultation of the African Union (AU) and WFP on Home Grown School Meals** took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29-31 May 2017. The consultation was attended by **90 participants**, including ministers and representatives of African Union member states, WFP, representatives of the Brazilian Government, research institutes, international organizations, civil society organizations and NGOs.

The main objective of the meeting was the presentation of the **draft report of the "AU Study on School Feeding"** in member states, to validate the results and agree with member states and key partners on recommendations. The study conducted by the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) endorses the value of school meals programmes linked to local agricultural production as key instruments for enhancing access, retention and performance in education in Africa.



Southeast Asia

The **First Southeast Asia Regional School Feeding Meeting**, jointly organized by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the WFP, concluded successfully on July 13. Participants from the region pledged to promote school meals in their respective countries. All participants declared to continue working together to strengthen school meals programmes in the region.

Great emphasis was placed on developing and strengthening school meals policy frameworks at national and sub-national level. The use of detailed roadmaps to outline the way forward for school meal programmes was highlighted. The delegations also outlined the importance of incorporating innovative

protection. South-South Cooperation will be key in this process, to foster capacity and knowledge by sharing best practices and building on evidence-based models and country leadership.

To learn more, please contact [Carl PAULSSON](#) (SSC Focal Point, RBC).



School Meals in Lebanon. Photo: WFP/Dina El-Kassaby

During the consultation, it was agreed to **strengthen South-South cooperation (SSC)** through: 1) enhancing the learning from existing SSC initiatives such as P4P; 2) increase commitment to developmental procurement strategies and focus on increasing local agricultural production capacities of smallholder farmers; 3) strengthening domestic or regional innovative financing strategies; and 4) recognising WFP and its WFP CoE Brazil as coordinator of the **school meals cluster** under the **Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016-2025)**. This cluster will bring together all major stakeholders of school meals on the continent, and will present its first report to AU Heads of State and to the Government Summit in January 2018.

To learn more, contact [Wanja KAARIA](#) (Deputy Director, Addis Ababa Liaison Office), [Trixie-Belle NICOLLE](#) or [Simon CLEMENTS](#) (SSC Focal points, RBJ).

approaches from the experiences of neighbouring countries and promoting active engagement of the private sector to support school meals programmes as part of their corporate social responsibility obligations.

To support the achievement of these objectives, the delegates from countries of Southeast Asia proposed to establish a platform for regular sharing of knowledge on school meals programmes amongst countries in the region, facilitated by WFP in collaboration with [SEAMEO Regional Centre for Food and Nutrition](#) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). For more info, click [here](#) or contact [Jennifer SHIN](#) (RBB).



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