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South-South Quarterly Newsletter

September 2022

“South-South and Triangular Cooperation is a ray of hope on the changing landscape of development cooperation, through scaling up sustainable financing, sharing knowledge and promoting inclusive multilateralism.”

Xiaojun Grace Wang, UNOSSC Deputy Director for Programme and Operations, at 15th Seoul ODA International Conference (September 2022)



Programme—Humanitarian and Development Division (PRO)

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

September 2022

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WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

WFP's Participation at the Global South-South Development Expo: Launch of the joint Rome-based Agencies (RBA) project in Home-Grown School Feeding Programme

In September, the Rome-based Agencies (RBA - WFP, FAO and IFAD) co-organized an event at the [Global South-South Development \(GSSD\) Expo 2022](#) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The event shed light on the potential of facilitating South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in home-grown school feeding (HGSF) to transform local food systems.

It enabled participants to hear voices from the Global South— Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, and Senegal— on the increasing need for support in this area. Japan also joined as a panelist to present their national programme in HGSF, in light of the support given to the Global School Meals Coalition.

The event also enabled dialogue between RBA Directors in Headquarters (HQ) and representatives from Country Offices (CO) to launch a field-level collaboration where the agencies will jointly broker SSTC to support strengthening national capacities in HGSF.

Five countries will benefit from this joint initiative, including Sao Tome and Principe, Rwanda, the Philippines, Kenya and Senegal. A brochure with a summary of the project is available [here](#).

The 2022 GSSD Expo also marked the UN Day for South-South Cooperation on 12 September, an occasion that the RBA have been jointly celebrating since 2017.

For more information, click [here](#) for the full summary of the event.



Update: WFP starts consultations to update its 2015 Policy on SSTC, as recommended by the Office of Evaluation

Since April, the SSTC Unit in the Programme— Humanitarian and Development (PRO) Division—, supported by a team of specialized consultants, has been working on the update of WFP's Policy on SSTC (2015), as recommended by the Office of Evaluation (OEV).

The SSTC policy update aims to ensure further consistency with the global and corporate context while driving the change needed for WFP to scale up its engagement in SSTC.

The revised policy, which is expected to be submitted to the Executive Board in June 2023, is now in the consultation phase with relevant technical focal points.

This process is framed by workstream 3 of WFP's internal Global Task Force on SSTC, which in June 2022 endorsed the key issues to be addressed by the policy such as the strategic forward vision of SSTC at WFP.

Apart from data and evidence from numerous studies, analyses and the OEV evaluation itself, this policy update will draw on the experiences and expectations of WFP stakeholders from all levels.

In-depth conversations will be conducted over the next 3 months with leadership and technical staff from WFP, member governments, other UN agencies and specialized academia.

In addition, a broad corporate survey was launched in August 2022 and has already captured the perspectives of more than 200 staff corporate-wide.

To be concluded in October 2022, the consultation process is a unique opportunity to identify and share lessons learned and solutions for our SSTC work. With the aim to deliver even better results, deepen partnerships and mobilize further resources needed to help our partners learn from each other.

More information can be found in the SSTC policy evaluation report available [here](#).



WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

Launch of the 2021-2022 Overview of WFP's Initiatives on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In July, the SSTC Unit in PRO launched the 2021-2022 [Overview of WFP's Initiatives on South-South and Triangular Cooperation](#). WFP's flagship publication in SSTC presents a glimpse of WFP's global work as a South-South broker to support countries in the achievement of SDG 2 on Zero Hunger.

In response to rising country demands, WFP has been stepping up its efforts to support countries to tap into SSTC in 2021 and 2022, as consolidated in the overview.

In 2021, WFP has been recognized among the UN entities that have made the most progress towards mainstreaming SSTC, reaching 1.11 million people and mobilizing \$2.7 million for SSTC field projects.

Some key SSTC initiatives in 2021-2022 are summarized in the report, including:

- WFP's Policy on SSTC evaluation & updates: In 2021, WFP rolled out an independent evaluation of the WFP Policy on SSTC (2015). The aim was to assess its effectiveness and sustainability as well as its implementation from 2015 to 2020;
- SSTC Field Pilots: Country examples from 5 SSTC Field Pilot projects and 7 COVID-19 Opportunity Fund Pilots were initiated and finalized in 2021;

- Key initiatives of WFP's Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Brazil, China and Côte d'Ivoire: examples of how SSTC can be brokered virtually and how WFP has been mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Regional Overview in SSTC: Some key achievements and country examples of WFP's ongoing work in SSTC in the field, with the facilitation of WFP COs, Regional Bureaux (RBx), CoEs and HQ.

The detail of these initiatives and more are available in the full report which can be accessed [here](#).



2021 - 2022 Overview of WFP's Initiatives on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

NUMBERS 2021/22

91% COUNTRY OFFICES
FEATURED SSTC IN THEIR
COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN

40+ SSTC PROJECTS
IN THE FIELD

51% COUNTRY OFFICES
RECORDED SSTC IN THEIR
ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT

11K PEOPLE
DIRECTLY REACHED

1.1 MILLION PEOPLE
REACHED INDIRECTLY

48% FEMALE
PARTICIPANTS
IN SSTC FIELD PROJECTS

WFP's Internal Task Force on SSTC Advances on its Programme of Work by Endorsing 3 Deliverables that are Key for Strategic Efforts in SSTC

In June, WFP held the 2nd plenary meeting of its internal Global Task Force on SSTC, which aims to address key recommendations issued by the SSTC policy evaluation.

These recommendations include revising the SSTC policy, ensuring that SSTC considerations continue to be reflected in the 2nd Generation country strategic plans (CSP) and more.

The meeting enabled the co-chairs of the task force to present the first deliverables developed by the three workstreams which are:

- Guidance for reflecting SSTC into WFP's 2nd Generation CSP by Workstream 1 that explores how to mainstream SSTC across WFP's programme of work (chaired by Bishow Parajuli, Country Director India).
- Theory of change for WFP's work in SSTC, as part of Workstream 2 which looks into evidence-generation and outlining how WFP can strengthen country capacity through SSTC at the policy, technical and grassroots levels (chaired by Patrick Teixeira, Director CERFAM).

- Strategic guidelines for the SSTC policy update, as part of Workstream 3, that support WFP's SSTC Policy update (chaired by Jean-Pierre de Margerie, Deputy Director, PRO).

The deliverables were endorsed by the plenary of the SSTC Task Force that is composed of both senior and technical level staff from COs, RBx, CoEs and HQ divisions.

WFP colleagues can find them on WFP's internal [Resource Centre for SSTC](#) which consolidates all documentation about the Task Force.

The deliverables are also in [WFP's Manual for SSTC](#) which was recently updated to be part of the PRO's Programme Guidance Manual.

Since the last meeting, the 3 workstreams have continued to advance their programmes of work and will reconvene again in November to present the next deliverables.

WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

WFP's Centres of Excellence Jointly Hold a Webinar on Nutrition and School Feeding

In June, WFP CoEs in Brazil, China and Côte d'Ivoire co-organised a webinar on children's nutrition improvement through school feeding.

The webinar enabled countries— China, Brazil and Zambia— to share experiences in this area. It enabled China to present its WFP Preschool Children Nutrition Improvement Programme and introduced innovative approaches for digitalized school feeding programming in China and Armenia.

The webinar provided a platform for developing countries to showcase WFP school feeding programmes and good practices on nutrition improvement from country perspectives.

The webinar was supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of China and counted with a total of 77 participants from 22 countries.

Participants included representatives from the National Institute for Nutrition and Health in China, National Fund for Educational Development in Brazil, Ministry of General Education of Zambia, and more.

This is also part of the WFP CoEs' joint efforts on nutrition improvement and was a first step toward further collaboration between all CoEs.

The webinar recording and relevant materials are available on WFP China CoE's SSTC [Knowledge Sharing Platform](#).



Photo: WFP/ China

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

Seminar on Digital SSTC and WFP China Centre of Excellence's Knowledge Sharing Platform

In April, WFP China CoE and China International Communications Group (CICG) co-organized a seminar on Digital SSTC and the Online Operation of the WFP China [SSTC Knowledge Sharing Platform](#). The seminar was supported by MARA of China.

The seminar highlighted that SSTC knowledge sharing through digital development and cooperation can be leveraged to advance the goal of zero hunger.

The objective of the event was to reaffirm the long-term partnership between WFP China CoE and CICG through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

More than 100 representatives from the Chinese Government, foreign missions in China, international organizations and academia, attended the event either online or in person.

During this event, WFP China CoE also launched the SSTC Knowledge Sharing Platform, which serves as a knowledge hub focusing on policy references, Chinese expertise and technology as well as good practices.

In addition to the knowledge platform, WFP China CoE also developed a virtual [Cloud School](#), which is a learning centre offering technical level courses for practitioners and interested parties.



Rice Value Chain Development and Sustainable Agricultural Value Chain Development in Cote d'Ivoire and Nepal

Since March 2021, WFP China CoE facilitated two projects in Côte d'Ivoire and Nepal, with funding from the United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), that were completed in May 2022.

As part of this initiative WFP China CoE facilitated knowledge exchanges and technology transfers with Côte d'Ivoire and Nepal in the following initiatives:

[The China-Africa Rice Value Chain Development Initiative](#) is a joint effort between Côte d'Ivoire and China with support from CERFAM and WFP China CoE responding to regional and local development priorities.

The Ivorian Government participated in an SSTC exchange with China on advancing their rice value chain development (production, processing, post-harvest management, market access).

The project leveraged pilot demonstrations, trainings, and technology/skills transfers in Côte d'Ivoire facilitated by WFP China CoE and the Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM).

A total of 614 local smallholders (604 women and 10 men) from four local communities participated in the project and took part in the technology trainings.

WFP China CoE organized two "training of trainers" meetings on rice processing with 43 people.

Following these meetings, WFP China CoE produced 9 technical guidance documents.

As a result of the project, the lessons learned at technical and policy levels may assist the Ivorian Government in addressing some of the challenges encountered in their rice value chain development.

The [Sustainable Agriculture and Value Chain Development](#) project aims to improve local stakeholders' production skills in Nepal and advance the sustainability of the agricultural value chain.

Due to COVID-19, training video courses were pre-recorded by 14 Chinese experts and a virtual study tour was conducted.

In total, 40 participants joined on-site for technical training, while 230 smallholders were engaged in field demonstrations with technical guidance.



Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) Against Hunger in Brazil

WFP Centre of Excellence and Government of Brazil Supports Sierra Leone in Home-Grown School Feeding Projects

In April, the National School Feeding Secretariat in Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and WFP Sierra Leone CO piloted HGSF projects in 17 schools.

The projects aim to provide schools with cash to purchase fresh vegetables from local farmers.

The [WFP CoE Brazil supported WFP Sierra Leone CO](#) in this process through technical assistance and the facilitation of south-south exchanges on areas ranging from logistics to purchases from smallholder farmers.

The purpose of this SSTC initiative was to share Brazil's experience in HGSF to strengthen the model currently in place in Sierra Leone and prepare for scale-up and mainstreaming.

Some key lessons learned include the importance of providing technical assistance and capacity development to smallholder farmers and key strategies to develop meal plans that are nutrition-sensitive.

As preparation for this SSTC initiative, in March, as part of the technical assistance provided by WFP CoE Brazil, [the government of Sierra Leone took part in the "Virtual Study Visit: Brazil"](#).

Around 37 participants from various HGSF sectors and NGOs gathered in person, while WFP staff and government representatives, as well as experts from Brazil and Sierra Leone, joined online.

The "Virtual Study Visit: Brazil" is a joint initiative by WFP CoE Brazil, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE).

It aims to showcase the successful Brazilian experience of its National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) to co-operating countries.



Brazil Welcomes Ethiopian Delegation for Study Visit to Learn About the School Feeding Programme



In June, a delegation from [Ethiopia visited Brazil](#) to learn about Brazilian nutrition and rural development initiatives.

These initiatives are integrated in the national school feeding programme, (e.g., inclusion of smallholder farmer cooperatives and food supply centres).

The study visit aimed to inform Ethiopia on nutrition-sensitive policies and promote knowledge sharing of good practices.

The visit was facilitated by WFP CoE Brazil, in partnership with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development in Brazil.

Participants included Ethiopian Ministers of Agriculture and of Livestock and Fishery, nutrition and rural development experts and partners of the NGO "Save the Children".

The study visit was a follow up to the ["Virtual Study Visit: Brazil"](#).

The [first](#) and [second](#) sessions took place online in May and were attended by 73 participants from both countries, who were able to share experiences and prepare for the field visit that took place in June.

The Ethiopian delegation learned school feeding policies and inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms.

These lessons learned will inform the current school feeding pilot project being piloted in Addis Ababa.



Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

WFP Regional Centre of Excellence Based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM)

Quarterly Dialogue Series on the China-Africa Rice Value Chain Development

In April, WFP China CoE and CERFAM launched a series of dialogues between African and Chinese rice experts. These dialogues were part of the China-Africa Rice Value Chain Development initiative, with the support of UNOSSC.

The dialogue series is held quarterly by CERFAM and WFP China CoE. The aim is to establish a regular technical exchange mechanism between rice experts and researchers from Africa and China and support the development of the rice value chain in Africa.

As rice is one of the most important sources of energy in Africa, the development of its rice value chain could contribute to zero hunger on the continent.

New Knowledge Products: Learnings and Updates from West Africa in Post-Harvest Loss Initiatives and Value Chains

In May, CERFAM launched two knowledge products that aim to improve evidence-based information and give visibility to the work being done in West Africa.

The following publications also aim to better inform decision makers in designing and implementing policies and programmes:

[Regional landscape for post-harvest loss initiatives in West Africa](#): As a result of the collaboration with CERFAM and the University of Columbia, a joint report was released on post harvest loss management (PHLM) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The report aims to support the development of a PHLM strategy based on existing good practices from different African countries (e.g., Nigeria, Liberia, Kenya).

Senegal Co-organizes a Webinar on Experience Sharing in Home-Grown School Feeding with CERFAM and WFP with participation from Niger, Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, and more

In July, the Ministry of National Education of Senegal jointly with CERFAM and WFP Senegal CO co-organized a webinar on the theme: "Exchanges of experiences in Home-Grown school feeding & ownership".

The aim of the webinar was to support capacity strengthening for the Government of Senegal in the design and implementation of innovative good practices for its HGSF programme to cover all schools by 2025.

The webinar counted with over 186 participants, which have implemented HGSF projects in Africa.

Including experts from national and international NGOs, international institutions, UN Agencies, government representatives and partners from countries including Niger, Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, and more.

The first session focused on Africa-to-Africa dialogue, in which different experiences and innovative practices in the implementation of a school feeding programme were presented by Benin, Ghana, Niger and Nigeria.

The second session of the webinar highlighted experiences from Brazil and China in institutionalizing HGSF programmes, facilitated by WFP CoE Brazil and WFP China CoE.

The dialogue series targets governmental, academic, and civil society stakeholders from China and African countries.

In the first dialogue, the experts from China, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire presented an overview of their rice value chains (e.g., rice production, processing and post-harvest management).

Further dialogues will be organized in the second half of 2022 to identify opportunities for partnership between China and African countries in rice value chain.

This report includes a catalogue of initiatives that can inspire African countries to reduce PHL by adapting and replicating the solutions and technology used in the good practices.

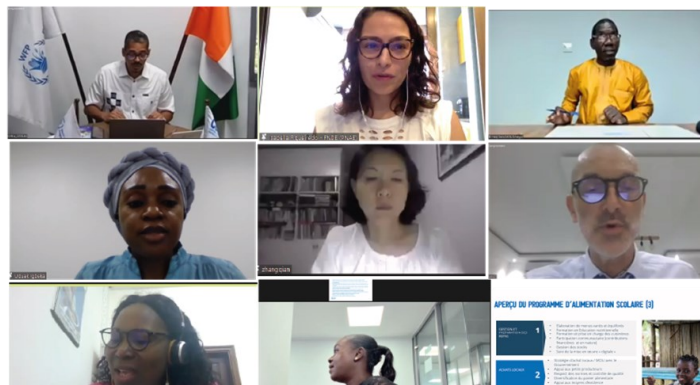
[South-South Cooperation dialogue – supporting the rice value chain through Sino-Ivorian exchanges](#): The fact-sheet provides an introduction to the rice value chain in Côte d'Ivoire and relevant national strategies.

It also highlights how the experience of China in rice value chain development could be leveraged to support the Ivorian rice sector at policy and technical levels.

In addition, the document describes an on-going pilot project between China and Côte d'Ivoire on rice value chain development.

Topics covered included:

- Institutionalizing the HGSF programme and aligning it with the national dietary guides and laws for local purchase of food directly from family farming for school meals.
- Development of infrastructure and the improvement of health and safety in schools with canteens - key aspects of the national HGSF programme.



Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

China - El Salvador COVID Fund Exchange: Models and Prospects for the Development of E-commerce in Fresh Products

Within the framework of WFP's COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund, WFP El Salvador is facilitating the project "Feasibility assessment for the development of a national e-commerce platform of vegetable and fruit".

The project aims to support smallholder farmers to access and diversify markets, in view of COVID-19.

In April, to inform the on-going project, WFP El Salvador, with the support of WFP China CoE and WFP Regional Bureau Panama (RBP), organized a webinar to learn from China's experience.

Participants counted with 80 representatives from China, El Salvador, Ecuador, Peru and more.

Participants discussed the current situation of fresh e-commerce food in China, the importance of the development of fresh e-commerce produce, the drivers of fruit and vegetable e-commerce, and challenges faced.

The event also allowed for further discussion on innovative solutions for national and regional contexts. The Ministry of Agriculture in El Salvador expressed interest in this area and in following up on the lessons learned and ideas that emerged from the meeting.



Photo: WFP/ RBP

Strengthening Food Safety in Fresh Produce Supply Chains in Peru with Support from China

Since November 2021, WFP Peru is facilitating the SSTC project "Strengthening safety in the fresh food supply chain" with support from MARA.

This intervention is the second phase of the SSTC project to strengthen smallholder farmers' access to markets in Perú.

Based on the studies carried out during the implementation of the project, a main challenge for smallholder farmers is lack of knowledge on food safety standards.

In view of this gap, in June, a workshop on "Strengthening safety in the fresh food supply chain" was organized by WFP Peru with the objective to learn from the experience of China.

The workshop was attended by 30 Peruvian government officials at the national level and 60 officials at the subnational level.

The Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation, the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS), Regional Government of Ayacucho and Nanjing Agricultural University of China attended the workshop.

A key outcome of the workshop was that Peruvian officials and smallholder farmers were able to increase their knowledge on food safety for fresh foods.

Participants also had the opportunity to exchange knowledge with experts from other countries such as China.

Peru and Dominican Republic: Strengthening Capacities in Shock Responsive Social Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction

Since 2020, WFP is facilitating a SSTC pilot project in Peru, "The School: Engine of change for good nutrition".

The objective is strengthening the policies, programmes and institutional capacities of Peru in the area of shock responsive social protection and disaster risk reduction.

The project includes exchanges with Dominican Republic as a country with solid experience in this area.

In May, as part of the second phase of this SSTC exchange, a delegation of 12 Peruvian government officials visited the Dominican Republic to participate in technical meetings and field visits.

Participants met with institutions responsible for the management of canteens, emergency preparedness and response and social protection programmes. WFP Guatemala and RBP also joined the SSTC exchange.

Representatives of MIDIS, the National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI), the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI) and WFP Peru shared good practices and lessons learned.

The focus was on the structuring social programmes, the impact on beneficiaries and the challenges in adapting programmes to respond to emergencies.

The exchange allowed the participants to discuss the progress and steps taken to create and strengthen Government institutions in a shock responsive environment.

A key outcome of the study visit was that both countries agreed on the importance of investing in strengthening their respective programmes and in national capacities.

In addition, they agreed including a component of shock responsiveness in their Social Protection programmes is key.

Both countries expressed interest in continuing this exchange, with the support of WFP.

As a follow up of this exchange, WFP Peru jointly with HQ and RBP will continue to provide technical assistance to MIDIS and INDECI in the area of shock responsive social protection.

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

IX Regional School Feeding Forum for the Latin American and Caribbean Region

In April, the Ministry of Education and the Special Administrative Unit for School Feeding (UApA) Colombia, jointly organized the [IX Regional School Feeding Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean](#).

The organization of the forum was supported by the Office of the First Lady of Colombia, Innovation for Nutrition Initiative (I4N) and WFP.

The objective of the forum was to discuss the progress, challenges and multisectoral opportunities of national school feeding programmes and other school-based programmes.

The forum also highlighted the importance of countries joining the [Global School Feeding Coalition](#), which aims to ensure that all school children have access to healthy and nutritious meals by 2030.

The forum was a starting point for future SSTC initiatives and knowledge exchanges and was attended by governments, allies, representatives of civil society and other UN agencies.

In addition, representatives from 21 countries participated in the high-level event (incl. Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, and more).

At the closing event, the participants approved a joint declaration that aims to promote the development of partnerships and a network of government representatives to share best practices and lessons learned.

The goal is to strengthen the region's School Feeding Programmes.

As follow up, participants agreed to hold the X Regional School Feeding Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2024.



Analysing the National Evaluation Capacity Index at the Regional Level

Since 2020, the National Evaluation Capacity Index (INCE) has delivered assessments in 9 countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. These assessments are jointly developed and facilitated by WFP.

The assessments inform global organizations on monitoring and evaluation processes and lessons learned and are analysed at the Global Evaluation Week event.

The Global Evaluation Week is a week dedicated to sharing experiences on monitoring and evaluation worldwide.

In June, the participants discussed the evaluation results obtained from 2020-2022, as well as how the evaluation supported the strengthening of national evaluation systems.

Stakeholders from the Governments of Dominican Republic (MEPyD), Guatemala (SEGEPLAN), Mexico (CONEVAL), Peru (MIDIS) and more participated in a panel discussion.

The discussion was jointly organized by WFP, German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to share lessons learned from the assessments.

A key message that emerged from the event was the importance of having multiple stakeholders analyze the effectiveness of national evaluation systems, which encourages further collaboration between countries.

WFP is supporting the development of a knowledge platform to foster further SSTC exchanges which will be informed by the results of the INCE Analysis.

Strengthened Collaboration between Argentina, Haiti and WFP on School Gardens

In June, Argentina, Haiti, and WFP joined forces to re-launch the [Pro Huerta Programme](#) implemented in Haiti through 2005-2016.

The programme promotes the creation and maintenance of school gardens which can support mitigating issues such as food security and nutrition in schools by making use of local resources.

The Pro Huerta Programme was developed by the Argentinian Ministry of Social Development (MDS) and the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA).

In June, the Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance - White Helmets visited Haiti as part of the technical assistance to be provided to Haiti on School Gardens/Pro Huerta.

During this visit the delegation, together with WFP Haiti, met with local authorities and visited the communities where school gardens will be established.

Some key messages from this visit included the need to strengthen education on food security and nutritional health in schools and "training of trainers" for set-up and maintenance of school gardens.

The SSTC initiative will last until the first quarter of 2023. During this time, the Argentina humanitarian assistance civilian volunteer programme, experts from INTA and the MDS will work together with Haitian institutions and school authorities to establish school gardens.

In addition, a local team will be organized to accompany, provide technical assistance and coordinate a network of school and community gardens in selected regions of Haiti.

This aims to develop a network of young promoters who will improve food production and manage resources for the Pro Huerta programme. The network would contribute to the sustainability of the project.

Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Government of Libya Visits Zambia to Learn about the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme and Hydroponics

In May, Libya and Zambia's Ministry of Education participated in a study visit for Libyan representatives to exchange lessons learned and analyse the challenges in developing Zambia's government-led HGSF programme.

The study visit was facilitated by the [WFP Innovation Accelerator](#), CERFAM, WFP COs Libya and Zambia.

Zambia's national school meal programme covers approximately 1.9 million primary school children in 10 provinces.

Hydroponics, which is a technique for effective soil-less cultivation to produce nutritious food, is integrated into Zambia's national school feeding programme.

School feeding management techniques, including local procurement, food distribution and preparation, and the contribution of hydroponics were presented to the Libyan delegation during the field visit.

Some key lessons learned from the exchange included the importance of a national school feeding policy, community participation and application of hydroponics gardens.

Libya will initiate further discussions with Zambia at the policy level to advance its national school feeding programme.



Photo: WFP/ Chun-Kit Li

Syria Participates in a Study Visit to Jordan on Wheat Flour Fortification

In June, in view of the SSTC COVID-19 Opportunity Fund pilot, the Ministry of Health in Jordan and the Syrian National Committee for Wheat Flour Fortification (WFF) participated in a 3-day study visit, facilitated by WFP.

The purpose of the study visit was to learn from the Jordanian experience in WFF.

The technical committee from Syria was comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Health and Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection. Jordanian officials from the Food and Drug Administration and directors of bakeries and mills in Jordan also participated.

Syrian representatives learned about Jordan's national WFF programme including legislative framework specifications of premix, procurement, grain milling, laboratory testing and monitoring & evaluation systems.

During the study visit, Syrian representatives visited the Jordanian Silos and Supply General Company (Juweidah) and private mill for the Syrian delegation to see the implementation of the programme in practice.

Key recommendations following the study visit included that the Syrian national committee for WFF:

- 1) develop a national strategy for wheat WFF;
- 2) review existing capacities (mill, logistics, bakeries, labs); and
- 3) develop a budget to conduct a pilot roll out of the project and conduct a baseline/endline study to assess the impact of the programme.

With WFP leading the fortification roll-out from the UN side, it was agreed that continued collaboration and support will be provided for ongoing exchange of expertise.



Photo: WFP/ Marwa Awad

Regional Outlook: Asia

Supporting Nepal to Learn about India's National Food Security Act

In June, the Government of Nepal engaged in WFP-facilitated SSTC to learn about India's National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Ten Nepalese Government representatives, including from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, went on a study visit to Delhi where they attended a high-level workshop. The study visit was facilitated by WFP India in close cooperation with the Embassy of Nepal in India and WFP Nepal.

The visit enabled the Nepalese delegation to learn about the NFSA's by-laws, critical elements (such as the use of digital transformation, ration cards, etc.) and implementation mechanisms.

The key objectives of the study visit were to learn how to:

- Link constitutional provisions of the Right to Food (a guaranteed right) to national policies and programmes;

- Integrate food security and nutrition provisions in the structure of institutions; and
- Incorporate a food systems approach into public policy.

During the visit, the Nepalese delegation met with senior staff from the Government of India. Namely, the National Institute for Transforming India, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, the Committee on Doubling Farmers Income, the Department of Food & Public Distribution and the Ministry of Education in Delhi.

To see the concrete effects of the NFSA on the ground, the delegation met senior government officials and visited Fair Price Shops (licensed shops under the public distribution system with subsidized rates).

The mission was concluded with a bilateral meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of Nepal and India to take the collaboration forward under the wider India-Nepal agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

Indonesia and Jordan Share Knowledge on Early Warning Systems

In June, the Government of Jordan went on a study visit to Indonesia to learn about early warning systems and disaster risk and response management.

WFP COs in Jordan and Indonesia facilitated the five-day visit.

During which the Jordanian National Centre for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM) shared knowledge with the National Disaster Management (BNPB) and the Meteorological, Climatological, and Geophysical (BMKG) Agencies in Indonesia.

The mission also included a field visit to Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara to observe weather data collection and disaster preparedness and response efforts at a sub-national level.

This South-South exchange is part of WFP's ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of NCSM by leveraging expertise from countries that achieved progress in this area which is critical for food security and nutrition.

Please [click here](#) for more information.



Photo: WFP/Indonesia

Philippines and Republic of Congo Participate in a Webinar on Smallholder Farmers' Livelihoods and Malnutrition

In March, Government representatives from the Philippines and the Republic of Congo (RoC) participated in a webinar on food security and malnutrition.

The webinar was facilitated by WFP Philippines and RoC with support from the COVID-19 SSTC Opportunity Fund.

The webinar focused on the results of a study on producing a nutritious snack from local crops for school-age children in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

The results supported developing the bar due to the low-cost and easy to produce nature of the bar.

The production of the snack aims at improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods and contributing to addressing malnutrition in school-aged children in the region.

Representatives of WFP RoC showcased the good practice of integrating M'bala Pinda, a traditional snack made from peanuts and cassava, into the country's school feeding programme.

Participants counted with the Philippine Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical, Education (MBHTE), the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), and the National Nutrition Council.

From RoC participants included the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Pre-school, Primary, Secondary Education and Literacy, Koliama Cooperative and CDPTD Cooperative.

In addition, representatives from WFP, the WFP Innovation Accelerator (INKA), and women's groups attended the webinar.

Following the webinar, WFP Philippines is now exploring how to improve the product and is liaising with Philippine Ministries on involving smallholder farmers and cooperatives involved in the production of the snack bar.

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