



# **Celebrating the 8th African Day of School Feeding: Preview of the State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022 Report**

**Side event on the margins of the first regular session of the Executive Board**

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, 13:30–14:30**

**Hybrid session, WFP headquarters**

## **Context**

Today, as COVID-19 related restrictions have mostly eased off, children are returning to underfunded schools, coming from homes that are more food insecure and poorer than before. WFP estimates that the global food crisis has pushed an additional 23 million children under 18 years old into acute food insecurity since the start of 2022, taking the total of children now affected to 153 million. This represents nearly half of the 345 million people facing acute hunger.

Since the first African Day of School Feeding in 2016, African countries have shown great leadership to reinforce and strengthen political will for school feeding on the continent. As part of the School Meals Coalition, the African Union and its member states have taken action on those commitments and scaled up national programmes, to ensure children are not left behind in the current crises.

The African Day of School Feeding serves as a convening space bringing together stakeholders across the public, private, civil society and multilateral sectors to raise awareness and knowledge on school feeding, take stock of progress made and galvanise political support for the adoption, implementation or sustainment of pro-school feeding policies programmes and resources.

The African Union has also been one of the main initiators of the School Meals Coalition. In March 2021, the Communiqué of the African Day of School Feeding Celebration called on all governments and partners to join the emerging School Meals Coalition and to advocate the placement of home-grown school feeding in global discussions. Many African countries are stepping up as leaders and show great commitment towards school meals: out of the 76 member states that have joined the School Meals Coalition, more than 30 are African countries.

WFP is proud partner of the African Union and its members in these endeavours. As part of its support to governments, WFP is proud to launch the third version of its flagship publication State of School Feeding Worldwide Report, which is being released in March 2023. The previous version was published in 2020 and provided a solid basis of evidence for countries to make the case for the scale up of school meal programmes during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This publication comes at a time of utmost importance for the safe recovery of schoolchildren, with new data to be used by policymakers and stakeholders to scale up and maintain school meal programmes, which are a transformative tool to mitigate learning losses and address the immediate health, nutrition and well-being of children.

## Objectives

This side event will celebrate the 8th African Day of School Feeding and unveil some of the key findings from the new State of School Feeding 2022 publication.

1. Review the state of school feeding in Africa and discuss home-grown school feeding as a key driver to accelerate development gains, connecting local production and markets to school-based health, nutrition and education interventions.
2. Preview the third State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022 Report, availing a wealth of new data and research insights to empower stakeholders to advance the school feeding agenda.
3. Showcase the early successes of the School Meals Coalition and work on next steps for the implementation of the global school feeding agenda.

## Agenda

1. **Opening and welcoming remarks**
2. **Presentation: State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022 Report**
  - Edward Lloyd Evans, Head of Research, Evidence and Policy, School-based Programmes, WFP
3. **Moderated round table**

Moderator: Ms Valerie Guarnieri, Deputy Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department, WFP

  - H.E. Haladou Salha, African Union and NEPAD Senior Technical Advisor to the Group of Rome-based African ambassadors and acting as African Union and NEPAD Senior Liaison Officer to the Rome-based United Nations agencies
  - Ms Millicent Ochola, School Meals Programme Coordinator at the State Department for Basic Education in Kenya
  - Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Assistant Director-General, FAO
  - Ms Satu Santala, Associate Vice-President of the External Relations and Governance Department, IFAD
4. **Q&A and remarks from the floor**
5. **Closing remarks**
  - Ms Valerie Guarnieri, Deputy Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department, WFP