

1st of March Africa Day of School Feeding Event hosted by the World Food Programme, Rome

WFP Auditorium, 15:00-17:00 hrs

Background: Following an introduction of school feeding to the Continental Conference of Ministers of Education held in Kigali, Rwanda in February 2015 by the Government of Niger, and the presentation of a special report of a High Level Mission to Brazil that went to understudy the Brazilian experience on school feeding in October 2015 in Addis Ababa, at the twenty- sixth ordinary session held in January 2016, the Assembly of the Head of State and Government of the African Union adopted a decision that called for the institution of the 1st of March as Africa Day of School Feeding.

The Decision further encourages the AU Member States that have school feeding programmes to continue their efforts, and to invite other Member States and adopt successful lessons learned, in order to improve school children’s access and resilience. The Republic of Niger agreed to host an inaugural event, to mark the launch of the first Africa Day of School Feeding, focusing on ‘Home Grown School Feeding- a conduit for Africa’s sustainable development’ in Niamey, Niger on 1st March 2016.

At Rome level, the WFP Executive Director, in consultation with representatives of several AU member states, will host an event, inviting all Rome based missions for a celebration of the Africa Day of School Feeding on 1 March, 3 – 5 pm in the WFP Auditorium. The event will allow for a dialogue on school meals in the context of the African continent and showcase the result of a number of initiatives undertaken.

Objective of the event: To compliment the high level Africa Day of School Feeding event in Niger, bringing together key representatives from government, academia and sister-agencies. It is expected to showcase school meals as an investment and to explore the importance of school meals as a strategy to enhance retention and performance of children in schools and its potential to boost income generation and entrepreneurship in local communities.

Organization: Moderator: Peter Rodriguez, Center of Excellence, Brazil

- Welcome
- Video interview with AU Commissioner
- Panel discussion with representatives of AU members and guest speakers
- Video on HGSF
- Presentation on School Meals Investment Case
- Intervention (via videoconference) by IFPRI and USDA
- Discussion
- ED Closing Remarks