



Informal Briefing to the Executive Board: Update on the School Feeding Coalition

Tuesday, 1 June 2021 from 14:00 to 15:30 on Zoom

Background

In January 2020, the World Food Programme (WFP) launched its new strategy in support of school health and nutrition for the school children of the world. One month later COVID-19 emerged and within weeks became a pandemic that led to 1.6 billion school children being excluded from schools globally by March 2020.

In early 2020, school feeding programmes delivered more meals daily than ever before, to 388 million children, or one out of every two primary school children worldwide. This historic progress was the culmination of a decade of action by governments and their partners.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought this decade of progress to a sudden halt. In April 2020, during the height of the crisis, almost all countries closed their schools, leaving 370 million school children without access to the one meal a day they could rely on.

Re-establishing school meals programmes and meeting the needs of those left behind has now become an urgent priority. Firm action is required to ensure that children will be able to return to school and get the support they need to recover from the multiple consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this COVID-19 era, WFP's 2020 - 2030 strategy and its partnership approach to school health and nutrition have become even more relevant. In response, WFP redoubled its efforts to support countries in maintaining care and support for out-of-school children and committed to strengthen support to governments to build back even better education systems.

To ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn and thrive, WFP is supporting a group of member states that is forming an international Schools Meals Coalition. This coalition will help to address the COVID-19 pandemic by bringing together governments, United Nations agencies, civil society, the private sector and academia to drive actions that can urgently re-establish, improve and scale-up school meals programs in low, lower middle, upper middle and high income countries around the world.

During this informal briefing we would like to update Member States on the implementation of WFP's School Feeding Strategy and present the different elements of the Global School Feeding Coalition.

Objective

1. Update Executive Board Members on the implementation of WFP's School Feeding Strategy.
2. Brief Executive Board Members on the establishment of a Global School Meals Coalition, which will be launched during the Food Systems Summit in New York.

Agenda

Moderator: Carmen Burbano, Director School-based programmes, WFP

14:00 Welcome and opening

Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department, WFP



14:05 **Update on the implementation of WFP's school feeding strategy**

Carmen Burbano, Director School-based programmes, WFP

14:15 **Presentation: School Meals Coalition - Nutritious & healthy lives for children everywhere**

- H.E. Céline Jurgensen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France
- Ms Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa, Senior Adviser, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

14:25 **Open floor for question and answers**

14:40 **Panel: Stepping up for schoolchildren everywhere**

Moderator will pose one question for each panelist. Each panelist will have 5 minutes to intervene.

- Prof Donald Bundy, LSHTM, Director of the Global Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition
- Dr. Bibi Giyose, Senior Advisor for Food and Nutrition Security, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
- H.E. Haladou Salha, AU-NEPAD Senior Technical Advisor to the Rome-based African Ambassadors
- Ms Anke Niederhaus, Head of Unit Sustainable Nutrition, Reduction of Food Waste, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany
- H.E. Mariano Jiménez Talavera, Permanent Representative of Honduras

15:10 **Open floor for question and answers**

15:25 **Closing Remarks**

H.E. Luis Fernando Carranza, Permanent Representative of Guatemala and President of the WFP Executive Board

15:30 **End**