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CERFAM' Newsletter

October 2020—Issue N° 5

Home-Grown School Feeding: an investment for Zero Hunger in Africa

“Home-Grown School Feeding is a top priority for the African Union Commission on the continent. We, Heads of State and Government of the African Union, recognize the contribution of school feeding and its immense value in improving outcomes in education, agriculture, health, nutrition and local development”.

The African Union Commission (AUC)



EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the existing fragilities impacted by climate change, conflicts, systemic and structural deficiencies, and underscored the economic and social disparities across the world, affecting the most vulnerable populations disproportionately. The health and food crises that resulted have brought to light the importance of school food programmes for children, their families, and the vulnerable groups and communities that are already experiencing poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

African governments have been investing increasingly in Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programmes, seen as effective and efficient mechanisms and tools to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and contribute to the development of human capital.

HGSF programmes are based on a model of school meals consisting of healthy, diversified and nutritious foods, produced locally by smallholder farmers. This model is a top priority for the African Union for offering a vast array of advantages and opportunities to advance education, nutrition, health, social protection and local development (pages 3-4).

HGSF, promoting inclusive and sustainable nutrition-sensitive value chains, is also central to WFP's work in its efforts to Zero Hunger while contributing to social cohesion and peace in the world. WFP and its Centres of Excellence, as well as its partners, are active actors in the delivery and facilitation of HGSF by many countries to ensure that no child has to go to school hungry (page 6). The WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil has been a pioneer in developing productive partnerships with African countries for the past 9 years in the areas of policy and school food programmes (page 5).

HGSF is a priority area for the WFP CERFAM's engagement and support to African governments to

implement innovative solutions and policies as well as sustainable programmes to combat hunger and malnutrition through capacity strengthening of country capacity and South-South Cooperation.

CERFAM and WFP Chad conducted a [Landscape Analysis](#) to provide countries and decision makers with a current mapping of HGSF in West and Central Africa (page 7). The analysis shows the challenges and opportunities and provides recommendations to harness good practices and lessons learned in the value chain of the ideal school food programmes for the expansion and scale up of HGSF.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the WFP, CERFAM and the Côte d'Ivoire Food Bank are combining their efforts to strengthen access of vulnerable populations, including children, to healthy and nutritious food through crucial food assistance during COVID-19 pandemic. This partnership aims also to promote local economies by supporting farmers to increase their production, sell their produce to schools and reduce food loss (page 11).

When schools were closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, WFP's action in the north of Côte d'Ivoire prevented children from going hungry, by continuing to receive school meals. More than 125,000 children benefited from the WFP McGovern Dole (MGD) food education programmes (page 10).

The pages 8-9 of this issue feature an interview of two experts from the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) involved in research and implementation of HGSF programmes. The experts present the main challenges that prevent countries from improving and expanding the programmes in Africa, as well as their potential impact on education, nutrition and local development.

Enjoy your reading!

To read in this issue...

- The African Union (AU) and Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF). **Pages 4-5**
- Nine years of fruitful partnership in school feeding between WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil and African countries. **Page 6**
- Why does school feeding programme matter? **Page 7**
- CERFAM Policy brief on Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF). **Page 8**
- Joint interview with experts to hear about their consideration on Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programmes in Africa. **Pages 9-10**
- Students in Côte d'Ivoire receive support from WFP CI during COVID-19. **Page 11**
- WFP, CERFAM and BACI promote food security and the reduction of food waste in Côte d'Ivoire. **Page 12**

To discover...

- CERFAM publications. **Page 13**

About CERFAM

CERFAM facilitates and mobilizes high-level expertise, promotes hunger and nutrition solutions, through proven practices, innovative approaches, and pioneering networks and communities of practice connecting national, regional, and international stakeholders.

CERFAM has been developing its normative frameworks, anchored on the **CERFAM Strategic Plan 2020-2024**, to inform effective and efficient planning, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation: **The Strategic Partnership Framework 2020-2022 (SPF)**, the **Communications and Advocacy Strategy (CAS)**, the **Funding Model and the M&E Framework**.

Despite the COVID19 pandemic which has limited the participation in and organization of events and field missions, in 2020, CERFAM has been increasingly reinforcing its positioning, engagement, and resourcing through the implementation of concrete actions on the ground such as policy dialogue support, the identification, documentation analysis and dissemination of good practices, that can be submitted through its Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEPT) :

<https://kept.coe.civ.wfp.org/>

CERFAM' Service Offering

Support the
Promotion of
Good Practices

Platform for
exchanges that
identifies, docu-
ments and dissemi-
nates good
practices and
lessons learned to
zero hunger



Contribute to
Country

A catalyst that facili-
tates policy dialogue
& technical assistance
through the mobiliza-
tion of expertise for
the implementation
of good practices
against hunger and
malnutrition through
South-South



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AFRICAN UNION (AU) AND HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING (HGSF)

Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programmes directly or indirectly contribute to the accomplishment of agenda 2063 aspiration 1, 3, and 7; and add value for the achievement of SDGs related to poverty (SDG1), hunger (SDG2), health (SDG3), education (SDG4) gender equality (SDG5), economic growth (SDG8), reduced inequalities (SDG10) and strengthened partnerships (SDG17). In the bid to “create” a new African citizen who will be an effective change agent for the continent's sustainable development as envisioned by the AU and its 2063 Agenda, the African Union Commission (AUC) has developed a comprehensive ten-year Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25).

The CESA Strategy is designed to be implemented through the coalition of stakeholders as per the AU (Summit decision July 2014), ensuring every stakeholder has a place and a role. Many African countries have successfully implemented school feeding programmes at national and sub-national levels. Some of them have already developed into HGSF programmes. Observing this rapid expansion of school feeding programmes on the continent, the AU, guided by its Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, intensified its support to member states in the design and implementation of national, innovative HGSF programmes.

HGSF, a top priority for the African Union Commission in the Continent

The Heads of State and Government of the African Union passed the decision AU Assembly (Assembly/AU/Dec.589(XXVI) in January 2016 acknowledging school feeding contribution to human resources development in Africa, and thereby adding value for the realization of Agenda 2063, CESA 16-25 and the efforts to reap the demographic dividends.

Moreover, the HGSF is clearly reflected in the 2025 Regional Nutrition Strategy and the AU CAADP/Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity programme.

The 2016 decision, recognizing particular value of the Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) the heads called, among others:

- Acknowledged the immense value of HGSF in enhancing education, Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, and local development outcomes;
- The institution of an African day of school feeding on the 1st March of every year beginning 2016 as the African day of School Feeding;
- The establishment of a multidisciplinary technical committee of African experts, under the chairmanship of the African Union Commission and the support of institutions such as the WFP and the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger;
- Conduct a general study on the relevance and impact of school feeding in the member states;
- Requests that the Commission “reports regularly on the implementation of the Decision 589 XXVI to the Assembly through the Executive Council”;
- Invites other Member States to learn and adapt lessons from those running school feeding to enhance access and retention of children in school.



These decisions are being implemented by AU in partnership with key stakeholders, one of which is Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM). HGSF programmes are gaining traction, as they aim to promote local economic development and value chain processing and improving (agricultural transformation) through establishing linkages between the school feeding programme's demand for food and the supply of locally grown food.

In response to the burgeoning popularity of school feeding programmes across Africa, and aimed at supporting youth-focused under the African Union's (AU) 2017 theme Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth, the AU has intensified its support to member states in the design and implementation of national school feeding Programmes. As a way to link Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, and to provide a strategic framework for the education CESA 16-25 serve as a regional operationalisation framework for SDG 4 ("ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"). Within a set of guiding principles, pillars and strategic objectives for member states, CESA 16-25 identifies some initiatives already in place on the continent as being vital to the improvement of education and training. In particular, to achieve CESA's strategic objective ("build, rehabilitate, preserve education infrastructure and develop policies that ensure a permanent, healthy and conducive learning environment in all sub-sectors and for all, so as to increase access to quality education"), the AU identifies strengthening school feeding as a critical point.

For this purpose, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) has become a tool for linking development initiatives to international, continental and national development agendas. This modality of cooperation facilitates connections and networks for learning from successful experiences and best practices from the Global South-South Cooperation to optimise local socio-political advancements. The AU, the World Food Programme (WFP), and (CERFAM) – which is a regional hub for exchanges and benchmark for the dissemination of good practices related to the design and implementation of school feeding programme, have established partnerships under CESA HGSF Cluster to generate and disseminate knowledge, provide technical assistance and strengthen national policies in various sectors, including education, nutrition, health, agriculture and local development, on the African continent.

Therefore, the need for mobilization of domestic excellence and financial resources and leveraging on external support and collaboration is vital for unlocking

the potential of youths in schools. Hence, Strategic partnerships and collaboration at the bilateral and multilateral levels are essential for jointly solving global challenges. We have to forge strong partnerships, driven by our shared values and policy objectives and deliver impact on the ground.

Most importantly, it is imperative to invest more local resources in developing Home Grown School Feeding, to build self-reliance and long-term resilience. For this purpose, it is very important to strengthen AU CESA HGSF cluster in the operationalization of the Assembly Decision 589 XXVI.

Article written by the African Union Commission (AUC)



Strong and strategic partnerships and collaboration at the bilateral and multilateral levels are essential for jointly solving global challenges





WFP CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN BRAZIL AND THE AFRICAN CONTINENT: 9 YEARS OF FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP IN SCHOOL FEEDING

Since 2011, the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil (WFP Centre in Brazil) has been working with several African countries to increase their interest in school feeding, nutrition and food security programmes, foster policy discussions and exchanges, and provide policy and programme advice and technical assistance to achieve Zero Hunger. Key achievements include :

- Hosting several high-level study visits from African Union (AU) member states and the AU itself;
- Partnering on the Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA Africa) initiative in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal to build a common path for including smallholder farmers in public procurement systems and strengthening local food purchases;
- Supporting the establishment of the Pan-African School Feeding Network (REPANS) including the launch of an online knowledge platform to improve school feeding policies;
- The organization and facilitation of high-level regional and international events, consultations and workshops in Africa to strengthen advocacy for South-South cooperation, Zero Hunger and school feeding;
- Supporting the elaboration of programmes, policies and legislation, and cost-benefit analyses;
- Supporting the development and validation of school feeding frameworks and resource mobilization in Togo, Benin, in Kenya and in the Gambia;

Among the other benefited countries are Mozambique, Kenya, Togo, Rwanda, Malawi, Republic of Guinea, Niger, Ghana, Liberia, Uganda Zimbabwe, Senegal, Côte D'Ivoire, Lesotho, Burundi, South Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Sao Tome and Principe.

Successful advocacy efforts at the AU have led to the inclusion of home-grown school feeding programmes in the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025 (CESA 16-25) and the adoption of a resolution to increase member states' commitment to school feeding.

This formal resolution set the 1st of March as the African Day of School Feeding and established a Multidisciplinary Committee of African Experts on School Feeding which was later transformed into thematic clusters to implement CESA objectives. The WFP Centre in Brazil has provided technical and financial support to all these initiatives since 2015 and, in 2019, delivered an evidenced-based package for the AU to take ownership and implement a Continental School Feeding Cluster.

Our successful advocacy efforts have also inspired Côte d'Ivoire, with the Centre supporting the country in planning and launching of CERFAM.

By engaging and working together, the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil, governments and partners aim to contribute to ensuring food systems provide adequate, safe, and nutritious foods for all by strengthening linkages with sustainable social protection and nutrition policies, strategies, systems and interventions.

Article written by WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil





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LEVERAGING SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES TO ACHIEVE CONTINENTAL PRIORITIES. WHY DOES SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME MATTER ?

“School feeding programmes are changing lives in Africa – millions of people, especially girls, have regular access to education and nutritious meals, thanks to national governments whose commitment is supported by the African Union”.

Carmen Burbano, Director of School-based Programmes, WFP

Ensuring that school children are able to access adequate safe, healthy and nutritious food is at the heart of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063. Home-Grown school feeding (HGSF) programmes, particularly, have been gaining traction across the continent over the last decades. The recognition of the transformative benefits of school feeding programmes on education, nutrition, local economy, health, gender equality and human capital development is reflected in the 2016 AU Head of States Declaration and key continental sectoral strategies and frameworks. These include the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025 (CESA 16-25), the 2025 Regional Nutrition Strategy and the Malabo Declaration. Established in 2017, the AU School Feeding Cluster reiterated the continental commitment in support of HGSF. It aims to foster educational outcomes focusing on the health status of school children by strengthening coordination, partnership building and advocacy efforts, while enabling the dissemination of relevant knowledge and best practices.

How are governments and partners approaching school feeding programmes?

An increasing number of African governments supported by partners have been prioritizing investments in school feeding to fight against hunger and malnutrition. Landmark initiatives such as the adoption of the WFP School Feeding Strategy (2020-2030) build the momentum and fully support the implementation of the AU’s priorities and objectives. Development partners interventions include direct

assistance, technical assistance, capacity strengthening and South-South Cooperation (SSTC) to maximize impact sustainably.

How will CERFAM support these initiatives?

CERFAM as enabler and catalyst for good practices and innovative Zero hunger solutions in Africa is well placed to play a key role in advancing the school feeding agenda. Priority focus areas include:

- Leveraging SSTC and capacity strengthening to enable governments and institutions to access impact-driven innovations and field-tested good practices;
- Supporting the identification, documentation of good practices, lessons learned and country-to-country experiences generated in or adapted to the African context;
- Strengthening evidence-generation, planning, monitoring and evaluation systems to reinforce accountability and inform decision-making;
- Fostering policy dialogue to catalyse high-level political engagement;
- Advocating for increased investments and ownership of government-led programmes including through the Africa Day of School Feeding;
- Supporting multi-sectoral consultation and coordination mechanisms such as the School Feeding Cluster to strengthen synergies.

These interventions will be pursued with a wide spectrum of complementary partners while reinforcing governments lead role and driving force to strengthen ownership and ensure sustainability.



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CERFAM POLICY BRIEF ON HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING

South-South exchanges are key to engaging governments from developing countries, that are facing similar challenges, in learning, exchanging ideas and innovative solutions to contribute to sustainable development. To this end, CERFAM has published an analysis to provide countries and policymakers with findings and analysis of the current landscape of Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) in the West and Central Africa region. The paper highlights the current common challenges and opportunities and provides recommendations of good practices within the ideal HGSF value chain that can be replicated.

The policy paper sets the current scene in the region by presenting findings of the actual landscape through the three primary steps of the HGSF value chain (planning, production, and consumption), and then by describing the challenges and opportunities that policymakers face. It concludes by providing recommendations for expanding HGSF in the region within the areas of replicability, feasibility, and sustainability and scale up.

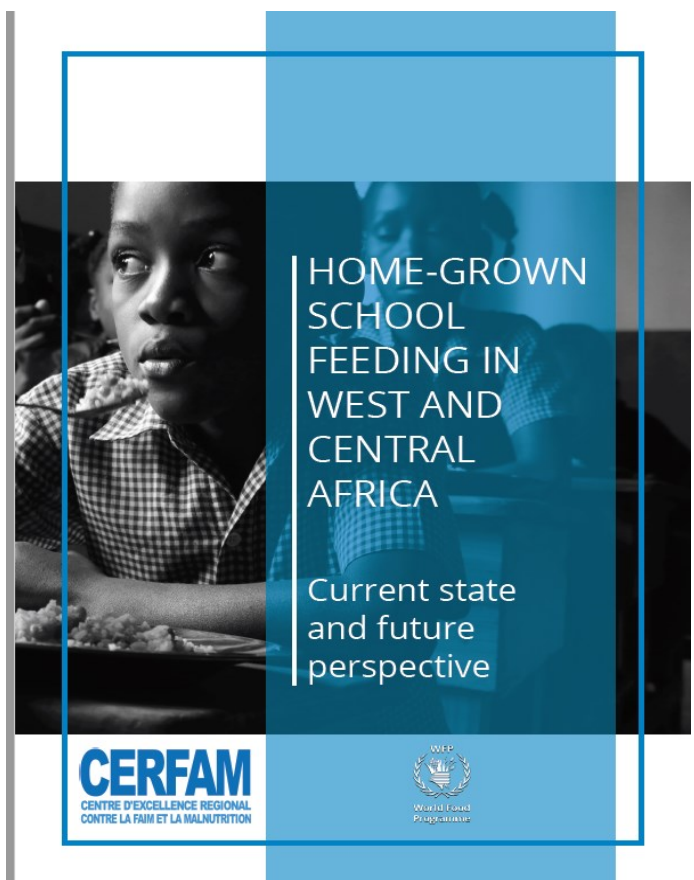
The analysis suggests that HGSF programmes can bring multiple benefits to countries and play a significant role in ending hunger and malnutrition. Yet, more research is needed to expand evidence-based generation of the HGSF impacts and investigate how countries can capitalize on them for better design and implementation. Sustained investments to strengthen national capacities are also key to pursuing and implementing a successful and sustainable HGSF model.

Stable and continued resources are the core of the requirements for HGSF programmes that should be seen as investments in the country and its future generation by supporting strong human capital development, rather than as expenses. The brief presents recommendations for each criteria detailed in the methodology. Within replicability, the recommendations are focused on how to strengthen capacity and create research and evidence for more comprehensive programmes to address the challenges

identified. The Sustainability and scale up criteria focuses on the need for concrete and stable financial resources and well-defined government-led policies to support the expansion of HGSF.

Lastly, the recommendations for feasibility are focused around building better and long-lasting community participation and increased production at scale with all actors. Through these recommendations and general overview of the current landscaping, the brief gives policymakers a clear understanding of the benefits in investing in HGSF while enabling countries to examine the model that meets best their national context and reality. HGSF programmes are a great opportunity to countries in many areas (education, health, social protection, agriculture) and play a significant role in ending hunger and malnutrition.

Article written with the collaboration of Levke RICKMERS from WFP office in Chad



[Click here to read the CERFAM Policy Brief on HGSF](#)

JOINT INTERVIEW WITH EXPERTS TO HEAR ABOUT THEIR CONSIDERATION ON HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING (HGSF) PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA

HGSF has been a key strategy for governments to improve their local economy and their educational indicators. Although HGSF programmes are very popular in Africa, most of the countries still face challenges to scale up these programmes and make them sustainable. Moreover, evidence about the benefits and positive impacts of these programmes to the communities are not expressive, which can contribute to the little documentation on good practices in HGSF in Africa. Arlene and Aulo, engaged in research and implementation of locally produced school feeding (HGSF) programmes present the main challenges that prevent countries from improving and expanding HGSF programmes in Africa, as well as the potential impact of these programmes on education, nutrition and local development .



Arlene Mitchell is the Executive Director of the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF), working with partners to ensure that schoolchildren around the world have nutritious, locally sourced meals. Among her many activities, Arlene led WFP's school feeding programmes from 2000 to 2005, Arlene worked in

the Agricultural Development programmes at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2008-2013), and in the United Nations World Food Programme (1997-2007). Arlene is currently leading GCNF's Global Survey of School Meal Programmes.





Aulo Gelli works as a senior research fellow in the Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). Prior to working at IFPRI, Aulo worked as a research fellow at Imperial College (2009-2013), as policy analyst at the UK Collaborative on Development Sciences

(2007-2009), and as a statistician at the World Food Programme (2004-2007).

What would you say are the key challenges blocking countries to improve and scale up HGSF programmes in Africa?


Responses:


 **Arlene Mitchell** : One key example is the challenge of coordinating stakeholders and activities across those sectors, ministries, lines of authority, funding streams, and competing priorities. While necessary for the success of HGSF programmes, coordination—especially inter-ministerial coordination, between peers—can be extremely difficult and may require oversight and encouragement by higher-level authorities. In Ghana, for example, the Office of the President has played a key role over the years, and the Vice President's Office oversees Nigeria's HGSF programme. Another set of challenges is linked to the HGSF goal of purchasing at least a portion of the school food from small-scale farmers. School food must be available in adequate quantity across one full school year after another. Food production may not be possible in some locations, or not in the quantity needed; Small-scale farmers may have little or no experience with selling to the school food market; Smallholders tend to produce primarily for their household's needs. To access what they need, then, school food programmes have limited options. They can work directly with a large number of small-scale farmers individually, buying small quantities from each, or they can work through farmer organizations or other groups that can manage farmer relations, aggregation, storage, and accounting. The first option can be unwieldy and inefficient, but the second option can also complicate matters. These are some of the key technical challenges we see.

 **Aulo Gelli** : Adding to Arlene's very insightful response, I would say that programmes could benefit from developing national standards that spell out the requirements for school food services, including not only food and nutrition standards for the meals but also requirements for the procurement of the food and services required for adequate programme delivery. These standards could provide a set of targets for implementation that could then be monitored and adjusted as programs develop. One such target that is relevant for the HG side of HGSF is what percent of total food requirement can be purchased from smallholders. In the recent randomized trial of HGSF in Ghana funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we found that after 2 years of implementation, caterers were buying approximately 10% of their food requirements from smallholders.

And what do we know so far about the potential impact of HGSF programmes in education, nutrition and local development? What evidence is there to support the idea of HGSF benefits to the school community and the country as a whole?


Responses:


 **Arlene Mitchell** : School feeding programmes have been treated as an international concern for at least 60 years, and there is strong data about their benefits to education, health and nutrition. However, the concept of home-grown school feeding as a development priority is still quite new and relatively unstudied. HGSF began to receive attention just over 15 years ago, around 2004, and took several years to begin to take hold. Thanks to the efforts of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Millennium Development Programme's Hunger Task Force, and the World Food Programme (WFP), home-grown school feeding was announced in 2004 as a "quick win" in the effort to achieve multiple Millennium Development Goals. Nine African countries had committed to begin implementing home-grown school feeding by 2006. In Africa, Ghana's HGSF program was one of the first to get underway—in 2006—and it received quite a bit of attention from the outset. It is still probably the best studied HGSF example in Africa. In term of more recent data, I am sure Aulo will report about some of IFPRI's impressive work on the topic, but I will share here a few highlights that stand out in the Global Child Nutrition Foundation's 2019 Global Survey of School Meal Programmes received from 48 African countries. It reveals that: **Most governments want, and invest in, school feeding, Local purchasing that improves menu diversity and is important for nutrition, School feeding—especially HGSF programmes—create jobs and support local economies.**

 **Aulo Gelli** : In addition to Arlene's comprehensive response, I would say that there is rigorous evidence that school feeding programmes improve children's education, health and nutrition, and are particularly effective on the most disadvantaged children, and as such can be seen as investments to "level the playing field". The same cannot be said yet about the agriculture benefits of these programmes, as there is only one study that looked at this rigorously and that was a null result. However, the null result does not mean that the programme did not benefit smallholders, for several reasons described by Arlene. We do need more targeted studies that examine how procurement can be made to work better for smallholders, that's for sure (and I am not saying it because I am a researcher!).

Within this scenario, what would be your key recommendations or key messages to countries wishing to pursue the scale up of HGSF in Africa? What should they prioritize?

Responses:

 **Arlene Mitchell** : We recommend that countries take a step-by-step approach when implementing and scaling up a home-grown school feeding programme. Establish cross-sector/ministry coordination mechanisms and ensure that each sector understands how the programme will contribute to the achievement of its goals. Set realistic targets for school food purchases dependent on smallholder production, based on commodities for which smallholders can realistically produce enough surplus to sell to the programme. Set up transparent contracting and payment systems that consider smallholder's capacity and needs. Another critical aspect of successfully implementing and scaling up a home-grown school feeding programme is advocacy. The stakeholders should be briefed and consulted regularly as the programme evolves; their feedback should be sought and acted upon.

 **Aulo Gelli** : In addition to Arlene's response, I would stress that investments in obtaining good quality data are key to be able to manage some of the complexities that HGSF programmes entail. Data on programme performance can also allow stakeholders from the community to provide oversight on public spending.

Read the full interview here : [Arlene and Aulo Interview on HGSF](#)



STUDENTS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM WFP OFFICE IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On 17 March 2020, the Ivorian government announced the closure of schools in Côte d'Ivoire to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Four million pre-school and primary school children were directly affected. The Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, de l'Enseignement Technique et de la Formation Professionnelle (MENET-FP) and its partners identified alternative learning options for students such as free courses to be given on television, national radio and social media. These courses are also being given on the MENET-FP web site for students in exam classes. In order to support government efforts, the AVSI NGO— People for Development, a partner in the learning component of the WFP school food programme, keeping with its vision (" Education cannot wait") took part in this endeavor by focusing on rural primary schools. Hence, in collaboration with the Direction de la Pédagogie et de la Formation Pédagogique (DPFC), the NGO conducted the following activities:

- Publicized, by way of 24 local radio stations for diffusion of 180 learning sessions, each, for 60 days in 7 regions;
- Held an upgrading course on the radio called "home schooling", which led to the creation of 100 French language learning units from CP1 to CM2.

AVSI also used its network to distribute course registrations and the tools needed to attend long distance courses and to take training, and to share information with instructors receiving funding from McGovern Dole (MGD).

It is through this intervention that the learning component of WFP's school feeding programme was implemented, contributing to maintain the level of reading for primary school students. The closure of schools prevented a million of the country's children from receiving school meals, corresponding to 125,000

children covered by the WFP's MGD school feeding programme. Moreover, school closures prevented many children from having a safe place to go, especially girls.

To this end, the WFP, in collaboration with "Direction des Cantines Scolaires" ensured that dry food rations was provided to 125, 000 students, as well as sanitizing kits, to help children continue to learn and for vulnerable households affected by COVID-19.

When classes resumed on 8 May 2020, WFP, through the local group of education partners, contributed to the discussions on health protection measures to be implemented in schools. A total of 3,678 face masks were also provided to canteen personnel.

The school feeding programme, re-instated for the 2020-2021 school year with the distribution of hot meals is an important incentive for children to attend and remain in school.

Article written by WFP office in Côte d'Ivoire



With course on the radio and home schooling, children continue to learn while staying at home.



THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP), THE REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION (CERFAM) AND THE FOOD BANK OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE (BACI) ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY AND THE REDUCTION OF FOOD WASTE IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE.

In order to promote food security and reduce food waste in Côte d'Ivoire, the WFP and CERFAM signed a protocol agreement with BACI on 21 August 2020 in Abidjan, with the goal of allowing vulnerable populations to easily access food during this time of COVID-19 and to achieve Zero Hunger in the country. The agreement protocol was signed by Issa Sanogo, director of CERFAM, Adeyinka BADEJO, WFP country representative in Côte d'Ivoire and Kignaman Soro, president of BACI.

This partnership will allow the three partners to combine their efforts to maximize the impact of their assistance on the most disadvantaged people, thereby contributing to the country's efforts to achieve SDG 2 Zero Hunger.

Through this cooperation, the WFP and CERFAM indicate their intention to provide technical assistance to increase BACI capacities in terms of logistics, supply chain management, as well as the dissemination of good practices that will be documented during this collaboration. In addition, the three entities will define the action and evaluation plans for the four collaboration areas identified, the strengthening of capacities in logistics and food storage management and the promotion of school food programmes in collaboration with smallholder farmers. The school feeding programme strengthens collaboration with farmers through the provision of rice, fruits and vegetables for the meals served to students and other produce purchased locally.

This improves students' nutrition and offers farmers

the opportunity to produce more, to sell their produce to schools, to reduce food loss, but also to improve the economic conditions of local communities' members, of whom many are involved in the preparation of the meals served.

The role of CERFAM in this partnership will be, among others, to identify, document and share good practices, lessons learned and impacts of the development experience. It will also keep abreast of, and facilitate access and knowledge sharing between BACI and other countries with similar experiences in Africa.



From left to right: Adeyinka BADEJO, WFP country representative in Côte d'Ivoire; Kignaman Soro, president of BACI; Issa Sanogo, previous director of CERFAM



The WFP and CERFAM will help with technical assistance to increase the BACI capacities in terms of logistics, supply chain management, as well as the dissemination of best practices.



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"The COVID-19 is still there. Washing your hands well, several times a day with soap and water, for 30 seconds, is one of the barrier gestures to adopt to avoid COVID-19 and minimize the risk of being contaminated".

REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

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