

# School Meals Programme: Celebrating Semi-Annual Achievements

World Vision



September 2024 – April 2025

## Why School Meals?

The rate of child hunger and malnutrition is staggering. Over 66 million primary school aged children globally are hungry,<sup>1</sup> with only 2 out of 5 children having access to school meals, which is often their only reliable meal of the day.

Behind every number is a child with a name, a dream, and a right to a better future. Here is what John, a 13-year-old boy from Kenya, told us: *“Food is the problem. We are hungry. I feel drowsy every time at school. When the teacher is teaching, I’m hardly attentive.”* John’s story is not unique, it reflects the daily reality of millions of children around the world for whom hunger is a barrier to learning and enjoying the fullness of life.

This is where school meals come in. Few interventions deliver such wide-ranging, cross-sectoral benefits. When done right, integrated school meals programmes improve child health and nutritional outcomes, increase school enrollment, retention and learning outcomes, reduce gender disparities in education, support local farmers and economies, protect the environment, promote access to clean water and sanitation, and serve as a social safety net in times of crisis.

Yet, despite their proven impact, school meals remain underfunded and underprioritised in many contexts. That is why, recognising their transformative power and aligned with the **ENOUGH Campaign** to end child hunger and malnutrition, World Vision developed a **School Meals Roadmap**. This roadmap outlines our strategic approach to scale up school meals globally by focusing on four key pillars: enhancing coverage, quality, and sustainability of school meals programmes (**Impact**), driving external engagement and advocacy with a wide range of stakeholders (**Influence**), growing the school meals portfolio (**Income**), and building evidence and information sharing on school meals (**Information**). Our target is to engage over 40 World Vision Field Offices and collaborate with more than 100 School Meals Coalition Members and Partners to ensure that every child has access to a healthy and nutritious school meal by 2030.

From September 2024 to April 2025, we have made significant progress across all four outcomes. These accomplishments highlight the synergistic efforts of the Global School Meals Unit, the ENOUGH Campaign team, the Disaster Management Team, the School Meals Technical Working Group, and our colleagues across Field Offices, Regional Offices, and Support Offices. By working together, we are proving that school meals are more than just a humanitarian response; they are a scalable, sustainable, and transformative intervention.

<sup>1</sup> Hamilton, M. (2023). Kenya’s School Meals Disrupt Generational Poverty and Improve Community Outcomes. The Rockefeller Foundation, April 2023. <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/insights/grantee-impact-story/kenyasschool-meals-disrupt-generational-poverty-and-improve-community>

## Impact Highlights

Figures cover October 2024 - March 2025



World Vision is providing school meals to 565,298 children



with a total funding of US\$23,669,700



for implementation in 18 countries

### Core Indicators



**565,298**

Total number of children receiving wet or dry school meals



**34,264.93**

Total MT distributed for school feeding



**\$492,177**

Total amount of cash and voucher assistance for school feeding

### Sectoral Indicators



**455,189**

Total number of children gaining access to basic handwashing services



**430,904**

Total number of children gaining access to basic sanitation services



**76,208**

Total number of children receiving psychosocial support



**125,643**

Total number of children/schools trained in smart agriculture

### Implementing Offices Children receiving school meals

**135,427**

**Burundi**

**13,951**

**Haiti**

**66,202**

**South Sudan**

**16,067**

**Cambodia**

**12,202**

**Kenya**

**56**

**Sri Lanka**

**34,156**

**CAR**

**18,808**

**Mozambique**

**9,586**

**Sudan**

**32,246**

**Chad**

**9,427**

**Myanmar**

**5,201**

**Venezuela**

**58,412**

**DRC**

**1,198**

**Romania**

**306**

**Vietnam**

**98,439**

**Ethiopia**

**15,109**

**Rwanda**

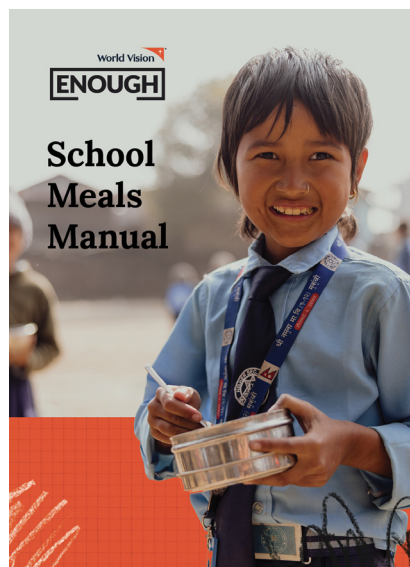
**38,505**

**Zambia**

## School Meals Milestones

### Impact Highlights

- We **revised the World Vision school meals manual** to bring in critical components such as environment inclusion and child protection. We incorporated feedback from stakeholders and emphasised the need for sustainability and scalability of school meals as a transformative intervention. We are now working on translating the document to French and Spanish to enable accessibility, cultural relevance, global reach, compliance, and inclusivity by making information understandable to people who speak different languages.
- **We launched the School Meals Manual** in April 2025 during regional webinars to introduce Field Offices to the ‘Integrated Home-Grown School Meals Programming Approach’ and provide comprehensive guidance on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of school meals programmes.
- Formed and launched the WV Technical Working Group for School Meals Programming, comprising representatives from Education, Food Assistance, WASH, Child Protection, Environment, Project Management, and Health and Nutrition. The purpose of the technical working group is to provide strategic guidance, technical expertise, collaborative and systematic approach to enhancing the quality and reach of school meal programmes, promote innovation, build partnerships and enable community empowerment



### Influence Highlights

- We are spearheading a global Child-Led Research initiative on school meals to ensure children's voices resonate powerfully at the upcoming School Meals Summit in Brazil. This project is active in 14 Field Offices, with WV Brazil receiving direct support through in-person workshops. Regional and global teams are collaborating to ensure the research is ethical, impactful, and widely amplified.



In-person workshop for child-led research on school meals in Brazil



- The school meals team collaborated with **the School Meals Coalition (SMC) secretariat**, to host and lead a [School Meals CSO meeting](#) on 24 October 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Participated in the **Global Child Nutrition Forum** on 9–12 December 2024. This was a major opportunity for World Vision to influence global leaders, secure partnerships and advocate for increased support and implementation of school meal programmes.
- We hosted the inaugural meeting for the **Global School Meals CSO Steering Committee**, which comprises WV, Plan International, Mary's Meals International, CRS, IPNED and the Global Child Nutrition Forum. The steering committee members validated the Terms of Reference and committed to identifying themes for collaboration during the upcoming School Meals Summit.
- We participated in a 2-day strategic engagement meeting with the **School Meals Coalition Secretariat**, hosted by WFP, in Rome, Italy. We received positive feedback highlighting World Vision's pivotal role in school meals initiatives, particularly in mobilising other CSOs to collaborate effectively with the Coalition. We agreed on concrete ways to strategically engage during upcoming priority events such as: UN Food Systems Summit that will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2025; the Global School Meals Summit that will be held in Fortaleza, Brazil, on 18–19 September and COP30 which will be held in Belém, Brazil, from 10–21 November.
- **Africa Day of School Feeding (ADSF) Webinar:** WV hosted the ADSF webinar with an attendance of 150+ participants. We featured

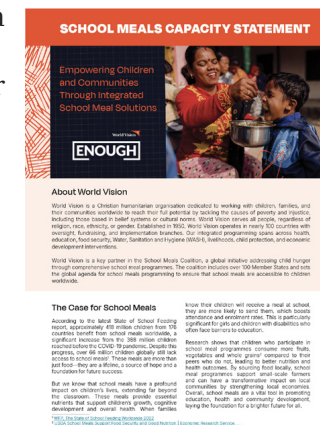


panelists from World Vision, WFP, Action Against Hunger, the Government of CAR and a child representative from CAR. Speakers emphasised how home-grown school feeding, and community and child participation enhance the sustainability of school meals.

- Actively engaged with various World Vision entities to identify current interventions and explore opportunities for collaboration on school meal programmes. These include South Africa Region, East Africa Region, Latin America and the Caribbean Region, WV Korea, WV Finland, WV UK, WV USA, WV Taiwan, WV Hong Kong, and WV Spain. We agreed on a number of actions that will be implemented within Q3.

## Income Highlights

- **Donor Engagement Plan:** We have developed a donor engagement strategy to guide Field Offices in diversifying our funding portfolio for school meals. The target is to support 20 Field Offices in 7 regions to raise \$10 million in new funds by FY26 through retaining our current donors and securing funding from new donors.
- We finalised and disseminated the **School Meals Capacity Statement** to demonstrate World Vision's experience and track record in implementing and advocating for integrated school meals model across development and humanitarian contexts.



## Information Highlights

- Streamlined and shared the school meals reporting guidelines with Field Offices. This has led to improved reporting.
  - **The School Meals Dashboard is now live**, featuring monthly updates on school meals funding and beneficiary reach.
  - **The WV Central page for school meals is now live**, serving as a one-stop hub for all school meals resources.
  - Organised and hosted two school meals webinars to present the school meals roadmap and reporting guidelines to 40 Field Offices who have prioritised school meals as part of the ENOUGH Campaign.
  - **School Meals Community of Practice (CoP)**: We launched the [School Meals Community of Practice](#) on Viva Engage. The CoP is designed to build a strong community of school meals practitioners from both advocacy and programming to connect, share knowledge and drive impactful school meals initiatives. Meetings are held on a bimonthly basis.
8. Finalisation of the WV South Sudan School Meals Strategy, and consequent engagement with Mary's Meals International and WV Austria
  9. Identify School Meals gaps for target Field Offices
  10. Monthly reporting and Quarterly report cards
  11. Convene bimonthly school meals community of practice meetings for peer learning and capacity building

## Priorities for Q3

1. French and Spanish translations of the School Meals Manual
2. Complete and share the cash for school meals concept note.
3. Regional Office, Field Office and Support Office engagement
4. Strengthen CSO mobilisation through the CSO Network for School meals
5. Planning for the School Meals Summit coming up in September 2025
6. Child-led research for school meals



## School Meals Resource Highlights

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In the last 6 months, we have developed and disseminated resources to guide and support World Vision's school meals advocacy and programming:

1. [School Meals Roadmap](#)
2. [School Meals External Roadmap](#)
3. [School Meals Manual](#)
4. [Regional Launches Report – School Meals Manual](#)
5. [School Meals Capacity Statement](#)
6. [School Meals Donor Engagement Plan](#)
7. [School Meals Field Office Reporting Guidelines](#)
8. [School Meals Report Card #1 \(Sep – Dec 2024\)](#)
9. [School Meals Report Card #2 \(Jan – March 2025\)](#)
10. [School Meals Explainer Video](#)
11. [School Meals & ENOUGH Campaign – Strategy & Advocacy Overview.pdf](#)
12. [Internal Analysis: School Meals Summit](#)

**We would like to thank our donors, partners and supporters whose contributions make this work possible including:**



### **We would also like to thank:**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Food for Education, Mary's Meals International, World Bank, Global Affairs Canada, KenGen Foundation, Plan International, Catholic Relief Services, International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNED), Novo Nordisk Foundation

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World Vision is focused on helping the most vulnerable children to overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. We help children of all backgrounds, even in the most dangerous places. Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness. Our prayer for every heart, the will to make.