

SCHOOL MEALS CAPACITY STATEMENT

Empowering Children
and Communities
Through Integrated
School Meal Solutions

World Vision

ENOUGH



About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice, including those based in belief systems or cultural norms. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. Established in 1950, World Vision operates in nearly 100 countries with oversight, fundraising, and implementation branches. Our integrated programming spans across health, education, food security, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), livelihoods, child protection, and economic development interventions.

World Vision is a key partner in the School Meals Coalition, a global initiative addressing child hunger through comprehensive school meal programmes. The coalition includes over 100 Member States and sets the global agenda for school meals programming to ensure that school meals are accessible to children worldwide.

The Case for School Meals

According to the latest State of School Feeding report, approximately 418 million children from 176 countries benefit from school meals worldwide, a significant increase from the 388 million children reached before the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this progress, over 66 million children globally still lack access to school meals¹. These meals are more than just food—they are a lifeline, a source of hope and a foundation for future success.

But we know that school meals have a profound impact on children's lives, extending far beyond the classroom. These meals provide essential nutrients that support children's growth, cognitive development and overall health. When families

know their children will receive a meal at school, they are more likely to send them, which boosts attendance and enrolment rates. This is particularly significant for girls and children with disabilities who often face barriers to education.

Research shows that children who participate in school meal programmes consume more fruits, vegetables and whole grains² compared to their peers who do not, leading to better nutrition and health outcomes. By sourcing food locally, school meal programmes support small-scale farmers and can have a transformative impact on local communities by strengthening local economies. Overall, school meals are a vital tool in promoting education, health and community development, laying the foundation for a brighter future for all.

¹ WFP, *The State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022*

² [USDA School Meals Support Food Security and Good Nutrition](#) | [Economic Research Service](#)



Chandy, 12, Cambodia

“School meals make me less hungry during learning. I can study hard and get good grades.”

Our Approach

School Meals are an essential part of our global ENOUGH campaign, which aims to eliminate child hunger and malnutrition by providing every child with the food they deserve to develop a healthy body and mind.

World Vision implements and advocates for school meals in over 40 Field Offices in 7 regions across fragile and stable contexts. Our strategic approach focuses on enhancing the coverage and quality of school meals (impact), intensifying robust advocacy and external engagement with diverse stakeholders (**influence**), growing internal and external financial investment in school meals (**income**), and facilitating evidence-building and information sharing on school meals (**information**).

World Vision Integrated Home-Grown School Meals Programming Model

World Vision implements a comprehensive Integrated Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) model designed to support child well-being and community resilience. Key Components of our model:



Nutritious On-site and Take-home Meals: We provide daily healthy and balanced meals in schools to alleviate short-term hunger and support learning. Take-home rations are also provided as incentives to promote school attendance and retention, especially in fragile contexts.



Health and Nutrition Interventions: Our model includes regular deworming and the use of fortified foods to ensure children are growing and learning in optimal conditions.



Local Sourcing and Livelihoods: We prioritise procurement of food from local farmers and producers, boosting community economies and ensuring sustainable food systems. This fosters community ownership and builds resilient local markets.



WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene): We integrate safe water supply, sanitation facilities, and hygiene education in schools to create safe and dignified environments, reduce disease, and promote school attendance.



Education Outcomes: By reducing hunger and incentivising attendance through take-home rations, the model supports better enrolment, retention, and learning outcomes.



Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience: We embed climate-smart practices such as composting, clean cooking solutions, and environmentally friendly waste management to reduce the program's ecological footprint.



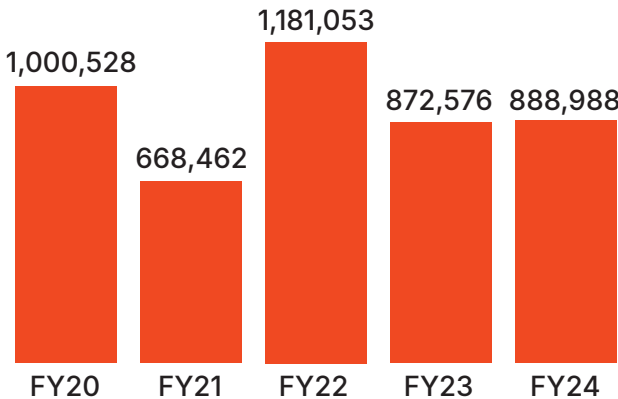
Child Participation and Protection: Our model promotes child agency through active participation in the school meals programmes design, implementation and monitoring, and ensures all interventions are grounded in child protection principles to create safe, inclusive spaces for every child.

Through this integrated, community-driven approach, World Vision contributes to sustainable development across multiple sectors while ensuring children are healthy, educated and empowered.

World Vision School Meals Portfolio

World Vision has a proven track record of implementing large-scale school meal programmes worldwide. Over the past five years, we have provided school meals to more than 10 million children across 60 countries. Our work includes collaborations with government agencies, WFP, and international donors, ensuring sustainable and impactful school meal interventions.

Integrated School Feeding Reach (FY20-FY24)



Note: FY24 reach figures were calculated using the =MAX methodology throughout the reporting year. The fluctuating trend in reach may be attributed to changes in methodology over time. A standard guideline for reporting on school meals is currently being developed for FY25, aligning with the ENOUGH Campaign's key pillars

Key projects and outcomes include:

 **Improving Livelihoods of Farmers through School Meals in Cambodia**
School meals are transforming local economies in Cambodia where local farmers growing vegetables and rearing fish are provided with skills and training, before joining a supplier programme. They participate in the supplier selection initiative, where they are chosen to provide fresh produce to schools.

Local farmers eagerly take part in such programmes as supplying their produce to schools ensures them a stable income. This enables them to finance their children's education, purchase more land for cultivation and, ultimately, benefit from a stable market that helps break the cycle of poverty.

 **Environmental Sustainability in Mozambique**
In Mozambique, the Partnerships for Sustainable Education Outcomes (PARES) project exemplifies the WV commitment to environmental sustainability, serving over 80,000

pupils. The children learn about sustainable farming practices, the importance of reducing food waste and the conservation of natural resources. These lessons empower students to adopt environmentally friendly practices and become advocates for sustainability in their communities.

A cornerstone of the PARES project is local procurement. By sourcing food from local farmers, the project reduces the carbon footprint associated with long-distance food transportation. This practice supports local agriculture, providing farmers with training and start-up kits, including tools and seeds, to enhance their productivity. It encourages the cultivation of climate-resilient crops, which are better suited to the local environment and require fewer resources to grow.

 **Increased Budgetary Allocation for School Meals in Kenya**
Through dedicated advocacy, Ksh. 3 billion was allocated to the School Meals Programme in the Government of Kenya's FY2024/2025 National Budget – targeting four million children attending schools in arid and semi-arid parts of the country.

This budget allocation was initially absent from the budget submitted to the National Assembly. World Vision Kenya prepared and presented written submissions on the issue to both the Executive and Legislative arms of government, convened sessions with Members of Parliament, and collaborated with other civil society and faith-based organisations, leading to this outcome.

 **Citizen, Voice, Action (CVA) for food security in Peru**
In 2024, the National School Feeding Programme, Qali Warma (now Wasi Mikuna), in Peru mobilised and engaged 21,047 students, teachers and parents across various regions to improve food security in schools. This initiative involved forming working groups, conducting national consultations and monitoring services. Key steps included training children and adolescents on CVA, organising dialogues with public service officials, and presenting improvement plans.

The programme committed to promoting school oversight of food services, strengthening training processes for food handlers, and disseminating inclusive communication materials. These efforts aim to ensure continuous visibility and advocacy for school meal services at local and regional levels.

 **Improved Educational Outcomes in South Sudan**
Since 2023, World Vision, in partnership with the World Food Programme, has implemented school meals programmes in



South Sudan. In 2024, the programme targeted 130 schools, reaching 70,517 pupils through take-home rations, on-site school meals, and cash-based vouchers.

A case study conducted in Warrap State highlighted the impact of these programmes on educational outcomes, showing increased enrolment from 31,000 to 42,000 pupils in 2023.



Increased Child Participation in School Meals in the Central African Republic

Empowering children to speak and advocate for themselves and on what matters to them is an essential component of our School Meals Programmes. This was evident at the 10th Africa Day of School Feeding.

World Vision convened a session where child advocates performed a skit to highlight their demands for more inclusive, accountable and sustainable approaches. Their voices were critical to underscore the importance of keeping children at the centre of programme design and policy change.



Innovative Resource Mobilisation in Rwanda

Israel Mbonyi, gospel musician and the ENOUGH Campaign ambassador for World Vision Rwanda, held his annual Christmas concert in December 2024. The event, which drew over 10,000 attendees, was used as a platform to announce the school feeding programme and encourage public support via Mobile Money.

This sort of outreach is transformative in terms of spreading the message of school meals to new and younger audiences so that they can see the transformative impacts school meals can have on societies.

Total contributions to the Dusangire Lunch Initiative between 25–31 December 2024 amounted to 1,586,219 RWF (all from local donors residing in Rwanda), targeting 1,586 children to be fed per school term.



Youth-led Monitoring and Advocacy for School Meals in Brazil

Brazil's National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), one of the oldest public assistance policies in the country, continues to promote nutrition and learning among students in public basic education. The programme emphasises locally sourced, family-farmed foods and culturally appropriate menus to ensure both sustainability and nutritional adequacy.

In 2024, World Vision Brazil launched a youth engagement initiative under the "Amplifying the Voices of Children and Adolescents Digitally" project. This led to the development of a letter—crafted by adolescents from Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Canada—which was delivered to government officials at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. In 2025, World Vision Brazil will strengthen youth-led monitoring groups, conduct adolescent-led research in vulnerable regions, and advocate during the Global School Meals Summit to be held in Brazil.



Henok, 13, Ethiopia

“The school is my second home because I have access to a healthy meal.”

Our Differentiator

- **Global Reach and Grassroots Presence:** World Vision is a global humanitarian organisation with over 70 years of experience, operating in more than 100 countries worldwide. Our extensive reach is complemented by a strong grassroots presence, ensuring that our programmes are deeply embedded within local communities. This approach enables World Vision to address the root causes of poverty and injustice effectively, focusing on the most vulnerable children and families.
- **Critical Technical Experience:** World Vision has deep technical expertise in implementing integrated and multi-sectoral school meals programmes. Our approach combines education, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), livelihoods and child protection to create a holistic support system for vulnerable children. By partnering with national governments, World Vision provides technical support and shares best practices to ensure the sustainability of these programmes. Our school meals initiatives not only improve access to nutritious food but also enhances learning outcomes, stabilises attendance rates, strengthens market systems and supports household food security. Our comprehensive strategy addresses both immediate needs and long-term development goals, making a significant impact on the lives of children and their communities.
- **Partnering and Localisation:** World Vision collaborates with the private sector, civil society, international organisations, governments, faith communities, community leaders and members, parents, teachers, children and many others at global, regional and local levels. We work with over 40,000 faith leaders and Christian organisations to support those affected by conflict or climate shocks. We work closely with partners allows to allow us to remain agile while strengthening our commitment to local communities.
- **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus:** World Vision excels in working across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus to provide school meals, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of vulnerable children. By integrating emergency relief, long-term development, and peacebuilding efforts, our school meals programmes not only offer immediate nutritional support but also contribute to the stability and resilience of communities.
- **Humanitarian Accountability:** World Vision is accountable first and foremost to those we serve. Our programmes provide regular and inclusive opportunities for information sharing and community consultation, including child-friendly, mobile and digital approaches. We ensure accessible channels for both sensitive and non-sensitive feedback and complaints, particularly for people on the move.
- **Advocacy and Civil Society Mobilisation:** World Vision has a remarkable ability to mobilise civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to advocate for school meals. By leveraging our extensive network and collaborative approach, World Vision brings together diverse stakeholders to champion the cause of nutritious school meals for vulnerable children. Our advocacy efforts focus on building strong partnerships with local communities, governments and international bodies, ensuring that school meal programmes are sustainable and impactful. We prioritise the amplification of children's voices around the world to call for lasting and sustainable change, addressing unjust policies that affect children's health and well-being.



Coordination Experience

World Vision has extensive experience coordinating with international and national stakeholders to amplify the reach and impact of our initiatives, including government ministries, UN agencies and NGOs. World Vision has been the largest implementing partner of WFP for over 18 years and partners globally with many national and international agencies and donors, including UNICEF, UNOCHA, WHO, UNHCR, DFAT, BMZ, amongst others. World Vision also actively participates in global networks such as the School Meals Coalition, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), and the Global Child Nutrition Foundation, ensuring best practices and knowledge sharing across partners.

Conclusion

World Vision's commitment to school meals is unwavering. Through our integrated, community-driven approach, we strive to ensure that every child has access to nutritious meals, fostering their growth, education, and overall well-being. Our efforts not only address immediate hunger but also contribute to long-term development and resilience in communities worldwide. By partnering with diverse stakeholders and leveraging our extensive experience, we aim to create sustainable and impactful school meal programs that lay the foundation for a brighter future for all children.



For more information, please contact:

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