

Representatives from 18 Countries Call for Global Support of School Feeding Programs

Global Child Nutrition Forum participants issue historic call to action

National Harbor, Md. (June 14, 2010) – Last week, representatives from 18 countries who participated in the 12th annual Global Child Nutrition Forum issued the following call to action requesting the inclusion of school feeding on the international agenda, including at the African Union Summit next month. The Forum, which brought together the largest gathering of 130 leading international school feeding experts, is a sign of the tremendous global movement afoot to implement school feeding programs.

The Forum is the flagship program of US based Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF), the international arm of the School Nutrition Association. This year, the Forum was cosponsored by the Partnership for Child Development (Imperial College London).

ACCRA COMMUNIQUE

Dated: 10 June 2010

The largest ever gathering of leading international school feeding experts – the 2010 Global Child Nutrition Forum – has highlighted the importance of school feeding as a key mechanism to advance food security, education, and agricultural development. Home grown school feeding promotes local agricultural development by providing smallholder farmers access to a stable market while simultaneously improving the education and nutrition of school children.

Recent calls have been made for nations to increase their annual budgets for agricultural development and to link school feeding programs to national agricultural production. In line with this the Forum delegates called for the inclusion of school feeding on the international agenda such as the African Union Summit in Kampala in July 2010.

Their call to action builds on:

- The 2010 Education for All (EFA) Addis Ababa Declaration that asks EFA partners to intensify efforts to support school feeding as an initiative that targets the most marginalized.
- The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme's (CAADP) key policy presenting home grown school feeding as a means to “increase food supply, (and) improve incomes for the poor and reduce hunger and malnutrition.”
- The 2009 L'Aquila Summit, where the G8 pledged to “stimulate sustainable growth of world food production, by promoting increased investment in

agriculture, including through development assistance, and with particular attention to small-hold farmers.”

The Forum, held in Accra, Ghana in June 2010 was co-sponsored by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation and the Partnership for Child Development (Imperial College London).

Countries represented at the forum included Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.

Other contributors and speakers included representatives of The New Partnership for Africa's Development, The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, The World Bank, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, United Nations World Food Programme, United States Department of Agriculture, United States Agency for International Development, The Institute for Development Studies, Latin American School Feeding Network, PATH, and many active NGOs working across the globe on school feeding, health and agriculture.

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The Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF), www.gcnf.org, established in 2006, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to expand opportunities for the world's children to receive adequate nutrition for learning and achieving their potential.