

School Feeding Call to Action

Nairobi, Kenya

Delegates from 22 African nations attending the Global Child Nutrition Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, May 3-7, 2011, call upon all African Nations to immediately focus on establishing and expanding home grown school feeding programs through legislation and national policies. NEPAD and the African Union are invited to support this call to action.

Hunger is on the rise and there is an immediate and imminent need to feed our children. The United Nation's millennium development goal of cutting hunger in half by 2015 is not on target; the G8 pledge to 'Feed the Future' has not been fully funded. However, calls by the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) to increase national budgets to 10% of the gross national product for agricultural development is being heard and realized by many African countries.

Home grown school feeding programs have been shown to improve:

- Education - through improved enrolment, school attendance and test scores
- Health and Nutrition Outcomes - by improving the nutritional status of school-aged children
- Rural Prosperity - by linking school feeding to local agricultural production and small-holder farmers
- National Food Security - by reducing food insecurity within local communities

Home grown school feeding programs are sustainable methods of attracting all children, especially girls, to school, while increasing local agricultural production and stimulating the local economy.

The Forum, attended by delegates from 22 African countries, regional and international organizations, representatives from the private sector and other countries, was hosted by the Kenyan government and co-sponsored by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (Washington, DC) and the Partnership for Child Development (Imperial College London).