

Southeast Asia Regional School Feeding Meeting Outcome Statement | Siem Reap, Cambodia | 13 July 2017

We, the delegates from the countries of Southeast Asia gathered in this meeting, express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Royal Government of Cambodia and The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for hosting the Regional School Feeding Meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia. We are particularly honoured by and thankful for the presence of H.E. the Minister of Education, Youth, and Sports, who provided us an inspirational and visionary address in the opening ceremony of the meeting. We are pleased to acknowledge the successful accomplishment of the objectives of the meeting, with the effective sharing of the challenges, lessons learned and alternative/innovative approaches from the school feeding programmes being implemented in our countries (as well as the best practices worldwide), as an important step towards strengthening regional collaboration. Based on our deliberations, we propose to jointly work towards the improvement of our school feeding programmes by pursuing the following objectives, as appropriate and relevant in the context of our respective countries:

- Develop and strengthen school feeding policy frameworks at the respective national and sub-national levels
- Develop roadmaps and action plans for the way forward for the school feeding programmes in our respective countries
- Use evidence-based approaches to advocate for ownership and sustainable financial commitment to school feeding programmes
- Use systematic analytical and diagnostic tools to monitor progress and identify gaps to ensure achievement of goals of school feeding programmes
- Strengthen platforms and networks for building awareness and advocacy for improved school feeding programmes
- Promote active inter-sectoral dialogue, engaging the relevant government organizations and other stakeholders
- Encourage governments to invest in strong information systems for planning, monitoring, and evaluation
- Create opportunities for incorporating innovative approaches from the experiences of neighboring countries
- Promote the review of national institutional arrangements and suggest improvements for effective and efficient implementation
- Encourage national and international partners to develop approaches that can be adopted by the country
- Promote active engagement of the private sector to support school feeding programmes as part of their corporate social responsibility obligations

In order to support and facilitate the achievement of the above objectives, we propose to establish a platform for regular sharing of knowledge on school feeding among Southeast Asian countries, facilitated by the World Food Programme and in collaboration with the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Food and Nutrition and ASEAN, to:

- Provide quality technical support to governments to integrate nutritional objectives and innovative approaches;
- Organise annual meetings of this Southeast Asian School Feeding Network;
- Disseminate this message in Global and Regional Fora.

We propose, as a first step towards continued high level cooperation, that the respective delegations present this statement to their responsible Ministers with a request to initiate a Ministerial Dialogue on school feeding amongst the ASEAN countries.

