

GCNFEATURES

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Alleviating child hunger and malnutrition cannot be achieved alone. It is through collaboration of all sectors, with school feeding as the effective intervention, that this commitment can be achieved.

Welcome to this inaugural issue of GCNFeatures!

We're excited about this first edition newsletter. It is an important new instrument to strengthen communications with the many countries, public-private organizations and individuals who have become GCNF partners in our work to strengthen and expand nutrition based school feeding programs linked to local agricultural production.

In this inaugural issue we pause to affirm our long standing commitment to "expand opportunities for the world's children to receive adequate nutrition for learning and achieving their potential". This is the essence of who we are and what we strive to do.

Alleviating child hunger and malnutrition cannot be achieved alone. It is through collaboration of all sectors, with school feeding as the effective intervention, that this commitment can be achieved. In this effort, GCNF offers experience based technical assistance, training, guidance, networks and resource materials to

ONWARDS!



Gene White, GCNF President, addresses 2015 Gala audience

help countries achieve their school feeding goals.

Success comes in many ways, in many countries and at different times. Perhaps the best indicator is simply doing all possible each day for goal achievement. In this context, a remarkable success story is developing as countries world-wide, each in their own way, continue to strengthen and expand school feeding.

Although much has been accomplished, much remains to be done. GCNF is moving rapidly ahead with strategic planning to set goals and priori-

ties for 2016 and beyond; the 17th annual Global Child Nutrition Forum will convene in Cape Verde, September 28 to October 2, 2015 with a strong agenda that focuses on *Innovative Financing for Nutrition Based School Feeding Programs*; GCNF is participating in many other global events to further support nutrition based school feeding. .

Supported by an international Board of Directors and a skilled professional staff, we look ahead to many new opportunities to advance the health and education of children through nutrition based school feeding.



XVII Global Child Nutrition Forum

Sal Island, Cape Verde, September 28 to October 02, 2015

VILSACK RECEIVES GLOBAL AWARD

—the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) bestows its Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award (GWLAA) for Child Nutrition to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the worldwide goal of ending childhood hunger



Secretary Tom Vilsack (left) receives award from Dr. Rajiv Shah for his outstanding contributions to ending childhood hunger.

Each year during its Annual Gala Reception, the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) bestows its Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award (GWLAA) for Child Nutrition to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the worldwide goal of ending childhood hunger.

On April 16 U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack became the 2015 recipient for his commitment to the nutritional well-being of children at home and abroad. Receiving the award from the 2014 GWLAA recipient and USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah, Vilsack was recognized for his numerous efforts to advance agriculture and chart a new path for-

ward toward greater global food security, especially for children.

During his career, Vilsack created the Iowa Food Policy Council to advance local food systems, enhance family farm profitability, and combat hunger and malnutrition.

At USDA, he is a key Cabinet leader on global food security and served as one of the primary architects of President Obama's Feed the Future Initiative launched in 2009. Under his leadership, USDA has contributed to improved global food security by focusing on capacity building to improve markets information, food safety systems, basic and applied research and innovations in agricultural productivity.

In 2013, Vilsack led U.S. efforts on the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition, which seeks to support global efforts to make agricultural and nutritionally relevant data available, accessible, and usable for unrestricted use worldwide in order to improve consumer health and expand economic opportunities for farmers. Building on those efforts, in 2014, he led the launch of U.S. participation in the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, a global effort to share knowledge and practices to address climate change and its impact on agriculture.

He continues to be a strong voice for improving the nutritional quality of domestic child nutrition programs and has focused USDA's McGovern-Dole School Feeding Program on meeting rigorous nutrition and literacy goals.

Over 200 people from supportive industries, as well as high-level government and non-governmental organizations, came together to celebrate Secretary Vilsack's leadership and commitment under which child nutrition programs in the United States have become global models of excellence.

Vilsack now joins a distinguished list of GWLAA honorees, including Senators Richard Luger, George S. McGovern and Robert J. Dole; Ambassador Tony P. Hall, executive director of the Alliance to End Hunger; Former Executive Director of the World Food Programme Catherine Bertini; and Executive Director of the Congressional Hunger Center Edward Cooney, among others.

NEW GOVERNMENTAL MEASURE BOOSTS SUPPORT FOR FAMILY FARMING IN BRAZIL



Family farmers will have a potential market of US\$ 400 million throughout the country

Photo: WFP/Carolina Montenegro

The Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger (MDS) announced this week that federal bodies in Brazil will have to use a minimum of 30% of their resources to buy food to purchase products from family farmers. The measure opens to smallholder farmers a potential market of more

than R\$ 1.3 billion (US\$ 400 million) all over the country, according to the MDS.

The same minimum percentage is already required for food procurement within the school feeding programme in the country. The objective is precisely to allow the family farmers to supply the school feeding in the Brazilian schools, which contributes to boost local economies and to promote healthy eating habits. To MDS, the main ad-

vantage of the measure “is to procure quality products, with good prices in a transparent and fast manner. The modality is also an advantage to the smallholder farmer and the consumer. With the model, the family farmer has to plan, qualify and organize their production to answer to this market demand. The consumer receives food that is healthier, more diversified and adequate to their needs”.

After the announcement, the Defense and the Marine, Army and Aeronautics Commands launched a public call this week to procure 1.85 thousand metric tons of food to supply their restaurants. Only the headquarters of the Brazilian Army, for example, serves 4.500 meals daily.

Article reprinted from WFP Centre of Excellence’s newsletter

“This newsletter belongs to us all and will only be successful if everyone takes a few moments to periodically take the time to find something to share.”

GCNF NEWSLETTER REBIRTH: GCNFEATURES

The Global Child Nutrition Foundation is once again publishing a quarterly newsletter.

The intent of the quarterly document is to keep us all connected by sharing information that will be of interest to countries worldwide. We intend to share success stories, provide the latest in global child nutrition research and provide a sounding board for you to raise issues that your programs might be experiencing and provide a plat-

form for others to share what they have found as possible solutions. We can learn so much from each other’s successes and challenges.

This newsletter belongs to us all and will only be successful if everyone takes a few moments to periodically take the time to find something to share. We will have some discussions at the 2015 Forum in Cape Verde to determine if there are additional ways this publication might be of

help. Following this issue, in addition to general articles, each newsletter will focus on a specific topic. Your input is valuable. Please send your stories, photographs, and questions that you would like addressed and topics you would like covered to Janey@gcnf.org.

If you know of others who would like to receive the newsletter, please send us their email address and we will add them to our distribution list.



....., We are now in the throes of working with this year's Global Child Nutrition Forum's organizing partners, the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger and the host—the Government of Cabo Verde, to produce another stellar Forum, September 28-October 2 on the island of Sal in Cabo Verde

DIRECTOR UPLOAD

After a wonderful transition year in 2014 which brought Will McMahan (as a contractor) and me on board with GCNF, and included a lovely Gala Cocktail Reception honoring Raj Shah (then-Administrator of USAID), a very successful Global Child Nutrition Forum in South Africa in partnership with the World Food Programme's (WFP's) Centre of Excellence against Hunger that involved about 250 people from 38 countries, and getting set up to operate legally out of Seattle (while maintaining our legal status in Virginia), GCNF entered 2015 with a bang. Thus far this year, we have:

- * Welcomed three supporters to our Board:
 - Janey Thornton, who stepped down from her position as Deputy Secretary of Food, Nutrition Service (FNS) at the US Department of Agriculture transitioned from "USDA Liaison" to full voting Board member in April and immediately said she'll take on re-establishing the GCNF newsletter—Thank you, Janey!;
 - pending USDA approval, Cindy Long, USDA/FNS Child Nutrition Director will replace Janey as USDA Liaison; and
 - Kate Houston, Director of Government Relations and Policy for Cargill, Inc. joined the Board in June.
- * Honored USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack with the Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award at a Gala Cocktail in Washington, DC in April. The ceremony was well-attended and very touching, as the Secretary shared his personal story and motivation for focusing on child hunger and nutrition.
- * Expanded GCNF's expertise and bandwidth by engaging:
 - American Will McMahan as our full-time Program and Operations Office staff

member based in Seattle. —Ghanaian/Dutch Daniel Mumuni as a consultant (based in Netherlands) to help us develop a new resource package focused on linking agriculture and nutrition to school meal programs, advise on matters related to Africa, and assist to implement a new Industry Engagement initiative. Daniel previously worked for the Partnership for Child Development and for the Dutch group SIGN. In both cases, Daniel focused primarily on home-grown school feeding programs in West Africa.

—Cameroonian Alice Martin-Daihirou as a volunteer, to assist with the new resource package mentioned above, protocol and content of the 2015 Forum, and the newsletter. Alice is a long-time friend of GCNF. Prior to volunteering her time with us, she was an executive in WFP, where she served for many years, most notably as Deputy in the School Feeding Support Unit and as Country Director in The Gambia, Mali, Chad, and Uganda.

- * A strategy development support team. Robin Jackson (based in Paris, and a former executive at UNAIDS and the WFP) is leading the effort with me. Others serving as part of the team are Dane Erickson (consultant, based in Washington, DC), Ashleigh Black (Board member), and Will. The team will be undertaking interviews with multiple stakeholders between now and October, and will present its findings to the Board in early December.
- * A new financial services provider, 501 Commons.
- * Developed two Concept Notes for proposed additional GCNF activities, "Industry Engagement" (to facilitate responsible and productive partnerships



**Arlene Mitchell,
Executive Director GCNF**

linked to school meal programs between private sector and government players), and "SEE Change for Women and Girls" (to initiate food safety and quality training and certification to prepare women and girls to work in school meal programs in developing countries).

- * We are now in the throes of working with this year's Global Child Nutrition Forum's organizing partners, the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger and the host—the Government of Cabo Verde, to produce another stellar Forum, September 28-October 2 on the island of Sal in Cabo Verde. The theme this year is "Innovative Financing for Nutrition-Based School Feeding Programs", and we will be inviting Ministers of Finance, significant donors, and others relevant to this challenging-but-critically-important aspect of school meal programs. We are expecting over 200 participants for what is shaping up to be a very special experience. For more information regarding Cabo Verde, flights and other logistics details, agenda highlights, information for exhibitors, and to register for the Forum, please visit the Forum website: www.gcnf2015.org
- * Thanks to all of you who have helped us to come this far: We are extremely grateful, and promise to continue working hard to make you proud!

GCNF AND CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE VISIT CABO VERDE TO PREPARE FOR 2015 FORUM

Will McMahan of GCNF and Sharon Freitas of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil visited Cabo Verde from May 25-27, 2015. They were hosted by Dr. Felisberto Moreira, President of FICASE (Fundação Caboverdiana de Acção Social or the Cabo Verdean Social Welfare Foundation) and his team in the capital Praia. Dr. Moreira and his team, in collaboration with the Cabo Verdean Ministry of Education and Sports, are orchestrating many of the logistics for the Forum. Together, GCNF, WFP Centre of Excellence, FICASE and the Ministry of Education and Sports are organizing and producing the 17th Annual

Global Child Nutrition Forum in Sal Island, Cabo Verde. In Praia, Will and Sharon met with Her Excellency Fernanda Maria Brito Leitao Marques, Minister of Education and Sports. The Minister hosted a press conference to announce the Forum and Cabo Verde's leadership in hosting and producing the event. Will and Sharon also met with several other local partners including representatives from UN Agencies and the Brazilian Embassy. Will and Sharon then visited Sal Island where the Forum will be hosted. There they met with the Mayor, local airport officials, hotel staff and others who will be instrumental

in supporting and hosting the Forum. Sal is a small island with a dry, warm climate and dazzling beaches. The main metropolitan hub is Espargos located in the north. The Forum will be held in the small fishing-village-turned-resort-destination of Santa Maria located in the south. Santa Maria is about a 20 minute drive from Espargos and the International Airport. Sharon and Will also had the pleasure of visiting three of the schools that will be part of the Forum's School Visits day. The schools offer much to learn about the way that Cabo Verde sources, prepares and serves nutritious meals. At

one school they arrived in time to see a delivery of fresh fish for the day's meal.

The trip gave every assurance that FICASE and the Ministry of Education are dedicated to making the 2015 Forum a success. The Forum will be an exciting opportunity for countries to learn from Cabo Verde and from one another.



2015 ANNUAL GCNF FORUM INFORMATION

Registration: For more information and to officially register for the Forum please visit www.gcnf2015.org. Special note: early registration (until September 1st) is \$300, after which time it will cost \$500 per person to register. Payment is through PayPal. If you cannot pay via PayPal please email will@gcnf.org (Will McMahan) to arrange another method of payment.

Travel and transportation: Sal Island is served by Amílcar Cabral International Airport (airport code SID). Internationally, the most direct and almost daily flights to Sal/SID originate in Lisbon, Portugal. There are also direct flights from cities in the UK and Germany, but these are less frequent. You may also find flight options to Sal via Praia, the capital of Cabo Verde on Santiago Island. For more information, we recommend you investigate these airlines:

- TAP Portugal (a Star Alliance member) – www.flytap.com
- TACV (flag carrier of Cabo Verde) – www.flytacv.com
- Thomson Airways (UK-based) – www.flights.thomson.co.uk
- TUifly (Germany-based) – www.tuifly.com/en

Guests who arrive on Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September, 27 and depart the afternoon of Friday, October 2 or the morning of Saturday, October 3 will be provided with free shuttle service between the airport and hotel.

Hotel: All guests will be staying in the five-star Oásis Atlântico Salinas Sea Hotel located in the village of Santa Maria on the southern edge of Sal Island. For smooth processing of hotel reservations linked to the Forum, PLEASE REGISTER FIRST, then contact the hotel directly to arrange your accommodations. Costs range from 90 to 215 Euros/night (about \$100 to \$240/night). The link to the hotel website is available on the registration site: www.gcnf2015.org

Market Place: The Forum is once again organizing a Market Place for organizations involved in school meals, nutrition, or agricultural production to showcase their products and services. For more information on this year's Market Place please visit www.gcnf2015.org/market-place

Technical Consultation Booths: Some organizations may qualify for a dedicated space and time during the Forum to hold consultation sessions with participating country teams or other participants. To ensure that participants can consult with multiple organizations, each session will last about 15 minutes. Priority for booth spaces will be given to organizations whose participating staff will be available throughout the Forum week and can consult with participants on topics specifically tied to the financing of school meal programs. In addition, there will be the opportunity for some organizations that provide other forms of assistance to developing country school meal programs to apply.

If you wish your organization to be considered for this opportunity, please e-mail will@gcnf.org stating a) the organization's name and relationship to developing country school meals, b) the name of your organization's representative(s) who will be available throughout the Forum, and c) the topics your participating representative(s) will be prepared to address in 15 minute Technical Consultation sessions.



"It is for this reason that we take pride in celebrating the International School Meals Day for the first time in Namibia to raise awareness on the importance of school meals not only in Namibia but worldwide," said Alfred Ilukena, Education Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education Namibia

Mark your calendars now for March 3, the 2016 ISMD!



Having completed its third year since inception, International School Meals Day (ISMD) continues to grow and establish itself as a global day of celebration.

ISMD is a unique campaign, which was first held in 2013 with the aim of raising awareness of good nutrition for all children regardless of circumstance. It brings together thousands of schools, policy makers, businesses, groups and individuals from all over the world. The growth in the campaign since launch has now established ISMD as a day of global importance that, through education, could help transform children's lives.

Food, like language, is an integral part of culture and many countries history and society rests on their food traditions. Food communicates the culture of people and their dreams for a healthier and better future and is often used to celebrate cultural events, festivals, calendar

days and social and religious customs.

This year children and young people of the world connected with each other and shared their experiences, stories and news about food and the part it plays in their lives by connect-



ing thru a social media campaign involving Twitter. From family milestone events, farming traditions, village festivals, learning skills for a future career and national holidays we heard what the pupils in our schools had to say about 'Celebrating Culture through food'.

UK and USA continue to be the leads in relation to activity connected with ISMD. However the

online nature of the communications allows for countries all over the world to contribute to the debate. Other countries active this year include: Brazil, India, Sweden, Pakistan, Italy, Czech Republic, Gambia, Lesotho and for the first time Canada, and Namibia.

Plan now for ISMD 2016. Mark your calendar for **March 3, 2016** and visit the website below for additional information.



School meals have the power to change lives. On my travels w/@WFPUSA, I've seen the transformative impact.
—Hunter Biden

www.InternationalSchoolMealsDay.com

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