

XVII Global Child Nutrition Forum on School Feeding

Communiqué

Innovations in Financing for Nutrition-Based National School Feeding Programmes

SAL ISLAND, CABO VERDE, SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 02, 2015

Since 1997, the annual Global Child Nutrition Forum has united leaders from several countries for five days of intensive training, technical assistance, planning and networking, all directed toward establishing country-operated sustainable school feeding programmes.

The Seventeenth Forum is organised by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation in conjunction with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger and the Government of Cape Verde with the support of all the partners, including experts from governments, the private sector and other organisations.

The Global Child Nutrition Forum is happening at an appropriate time in the international development agenda, following the conclusion of two relevant events: Financing for Development meeting and the recent approval of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The delegates from the 42 countries participating in the Forum agreed as follows.

CONSIDERING

The Forum recognizes that:

1. School feeding programmes are an important tool to ensure the right to food, promote healthy eating habits and improved child nutrition
2. School feeding programmes effectively contribute to the development of human capital and also the local economies through the creation of jobs and local purchase mechanisms, empowering smallholder farmers and women
3. The success of the school feeding programmes relies on strong political will, long-term vision, and the ownership of a national policy of school feeding by the governments
4. School feeding programmes are a long term investment, rather than an expenditure, for the benefit of the country with a strong return in terms of the economic growth
5. The success of the school feeding programmes critically depends on the funding being integrated into the national budget and with appropriate legal and institutional frameworks to ensure sustainability
6. There are innovative avenues for funding of school feeding programmes which can be pursued according to the needs and aspirations of the country
7. Strong multisectoral approach and good governance are needed to ensure accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of school feeding programmes

8. Civil society plays an important role in the development and implementation of the school feeding programmes
9. Continuous collaboration with the development partners is needed in pursuance of the school feeding programmes
10. The role of the private sector is important for strengthening the supply chain and local procurement and for supporting the development of the physical infrastructure required for the implementation of school feeding programmes
11. Appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms as well as evidence based advocacy are necessary to ensure accountability for the school feeding programmes

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum recommends that:

1. Governments should ensure that legal and institutional mechanisms are in place for the development and implementation of school feeding programmes
2. Governments establish dedicated budget lines to ensure the sustainable allocation of sufficient resources to national school feeding programmes
3. In addition to domestic resource mobilization, governments need to find new and innovative ways of funding school feeding programmes such as public-private partnerships, and strengthened south-south and international cooperation to improve overseas development aid flows
4. The civil society is highly encouraged to advocate and participate in the mobilization of resources and implementation of school feeding programmes
5. The governments include the school feeding programmes as part of national social protection framework
6. Governments and development partners should agree on adequate timelines for countries transitioning from externally-assisted to nationally-owned school feeding programmes
7. Use the African and other regional networks on school feeding as resources to reinforce best practices among countries
8. Gender equality should be mainstreamed in the design and implementation of school feeding programmes
9. GCNF and network in Africa should contribute to the upcoming agenda on school feeding at the next African Union summit.
10. Governments should address food and nutrition education in the design of the school feeding programmes

NEXT STEPS

Ensure strong follow up mechanism of the Communiqué's recommendations

October 2nd 2015
Sal Island, Cape Verde