

To the official in charge of school feeding in the country:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Global Survey of School Meal Programs

Respected Madam/ Sir,

Please allow me to introduce the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) and the 2019 Global Survey of School Meal Programs.

GCNF is a non-profit organization registered in the United States. We work to expand opportunities for the world's children to receive adequate nutrition for learning and achieving their potential through government-led school meal programs. We serve as a global network facilitator for the involved government officials and their implementing partners, companies, experts, and others working toward this goal

For twenty years, GCNF has offered the annual Global Child Nutrition Forum, the world's largest annual international gathering of leaders in the field of school food and nutrition. Organized in partnership with hosting countries and our primary partners, the Forum is a five-day event designed to facilitate learning exchanges between governments and stakeholders (experts, implementing partners, and private sector representatives).

This year, GCNF is launching its first Global Survey of School Meal Programs. The goal for this baseline survey and subsequent updates (planned for every two to three years into the future), is to support governments to better document, advocate for, and implement and manage school meal programs. It is intended to cover national and/or large-scale programs and to include all countries, even those that currently have no such program.

The survey is designed to capture information on the following topics (as relevant for each country):

- The scope of school feeding activities in the most recently completed school year
- Government involvement with school feeding
- Nutrition, education, and gender
- Agricultural and private sector engagement
- Related health and sanitation topics

The survey database will enable a participating country to:

- Share information about its school meal programs with stakeholders and researchers around the world
- Identify strengths, and weaknesses, and needs within programs
- Recognize and remedy gaps in program data collection
- Learn from the successes and challenges of other countries' school feeding programs
- Invest in school nutrition with deeper knowledge of the sector globally, including trends, gaps, and opportunities
- Direct training, education, research, and funding efforts to the areas of greatest need

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This survey is designed to be answered by a government representative—a survey Focal Point—who is involved with school feeding in their country.

The survey can be completed in stages, and may require consultation with other government offices or partners. We expect many respondents will opt to complete the survey gradually, and based on the experience piloting the survey in Benin, Nepal, and the United States, we estimate that—even for the most complex programs and working on it gradually—it should be possible to finish the survey over the course of 1-2 weeks. You may also find details of the survey on our website <https://gcnf.org/survey/>

Throughout this process, a GCNF team consisting of a Survey Coordinator and one or more Survey Associates will be available (virtually, via email, Skype, telephone, etc.) to answer questions and otherwise work with the Focal Point to complete the survey.

After receiving the data for your country, we will prepare a summary “Country Report” for your use to describe and advocate for your program. You will also have access to other countries’ reports.

We hope that you will agree to participate in the survey and kindly request your support in designating a Focal Point for your country. The Focal Point will be expected to gain any approvals necessary before the survey results for the country are entered in the GCNF survey database. The Survey questionnaire and glossary are enclosed for your perusal.

We would be extremely grateful if you could kindly share the contact details (name, title, department, country) with Mamta Gurung Nyangmi, Global Survey Coordinator for Asia and Oceania at mamta@gcnf.org and globalsurvey@gcnf.org.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and positive response to this request.

Best regards,



Arlene Mitchell
Executive Director
Global Child Nutrition Foundation

Enclosed:

- Global Survey Questionnaire
- Global Survey Glossary

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