

JOIN US AS A FORUM SUPPORTER!



The Global Child Nutrition Forum offers a unique opportunity to engage directly with government leaders and partners who design and scale school meal programs.

YOU'RE INVITED! | 2026 GLOBAL CHILD NUTRITION FORUM

In November 2026, school meal leaders from around the world are invited to Lusaka, Zambia - home to one of Africa's most [dynamic and inspiring school meal programs](#).

Hosted by [Global Child Nutrition Foundation \(GCNF\)](#) and the [Government of the Republic of Zambia](#), the [Global Child Nutrition Forum](#) offers governments and partners tools, knowledge, and global connections to strengthen and sustain nationally-led school meal programs.

School meals reach over 400 million children and represent more than \$67 billion in annual public investment. For partners committed to nutrition, agriculture, education, resilience, or sustainable development, the Forum offers a unique opportunity to engage with the leaders shaping these systems.

This year's theme, ***From Vision to Action: Achieving Ambitious School Meal Program Objectives***, focuses on strengthening operational capacity and translating national school meal commitments into effective implementation. The Forum fosters a worldwide network of dedicated professionals, complementing the School Meals Coalition's political momentum with hands-on technical expertise. We invite you to join us in Lusaka as this global community comes together to turn ambition into action.

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WHY ZAMBIA?

Zambia's school meal story spans decades of dedication and innovation. Zambia's school feeding initiatives now reach over 4.7 million children, with an ambitious goal to serve 6.6 million learners in 2026.

Zambia's national strategy prioritizes sustainable expansion, climate resilience, and dietary diversity. With its proven leadership and deep local engagement, Zambia provides the ideal setting for a global dialogue on scaling home-grown school feeding models.

[Learn more about Zambia's school meal program.](#)



WHO ATTENDS THE FORUM?

The Global Child Nutrition Forum is a hands-on learning platform that brings together 250–300 participants from up to 80 countries, including:

- **Government leaders**—the primary audience, representing national school meal program leaders, managers, policymakers, and technical staff.
- **Development partners**—representatives of UN agencies, donor governments, foundations, and financial institutions.
- **NGOs/CSOs**—such as CRS, Counterpart International, GAIN, Global Communities, Nascent Solutions, Mary’s Meals, Plan International, SNV, World Vision International, and others.
- **Multi-stakeholder platform representatives**—such as the School Meals Coalition, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), the Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, the Alliance Against Hunger, and the SDG2 Advocacy Hub.
- **Academia and research institutions**—specializing in nutrition, food systems, and social protection.
- **Private sector partners**—allies in food production, processing, packaging, fortification, logistics, and other related products and services.



THE AGENDA

Participants will engage in technical workshops, research presentations, and site visits to Zambian schools, culminating in a Forum Communiqué outlining government priorities for global attention.

The Forum agenda is driven by government-identified priorities from the [Global Survey of School Meal Programs](#), input from a wide range of stakeholders, and emerging global trends.

Objectives

- 1. Strengthen operational capacity** for program implementation and expansion.
- 2. Provide technical knowledge, tools, and connections** for translating national school meal commitments into effective implementation.
- 3. Foster peer-to-peer learning and collaboration** within and between stakeholders (governments, partners, industry, researchers, and advocates).
- 4. Translate global knowledge and research into actionable strategies** for durable large-scale school meal programs.

Emerging Agenda Themes

Youth Engagement and School Food Environments

Addressing rising obesity and diet-related disease by improving school food environments, reducing reliance on ultra-processed foods, and engaging youth as agents of change.

Crisis, Displacement, and Vulnerable Populations

Examining how school meals reach children affected by crisis and displacement and using evidence from fragile and displacement settings to strengthen program planning and implementation.

Sustainable Local Supply and Nutrition Innovation

Expanding the role of diversified, nutritious foods (including fish, heritage crops, and whole grains), through public and institutional procurement policies that emphasize local food, small- and medium-size farms and enterprises, food safety, and environmental considerations.

Inclusive Economic Opportunity and Job Creation

Using school meal programs to build skills, develop local enterprise, and formalize employment - particularly for women and youth - across the food value chain.



The Global Child Nutrition Forum offers partners a unique opportunity to engage directly with the government leaders and implementing partners who design and scale school meal programs for millions of children.

Strategic Partner

\$50,000

Help underwrite core Forum delivery, including government accessibility, plenary sessions, and peer to peer learning infrastructure.

- 3 free registrations
- Large logo on Forum webpage, onsite, and in Forum report
- Multi-day exhibit table
- Special mention at opening and closing sessions
- Dedicated sponsor recognition on GCNF social media platforms
- An opportunity to address the full Forum audience on stage with relevant, pre-approved content
- Featured blog pre-Forum
- Custom feature in Forum report

Systems Change Agent

\$25,000

Support the core convening costs of the Forum, ensuring broad global participation, high-quality learning, and dissemination of cutting edge research.

- 3 free registrations
- Large logo on Forum webpage, onsite, and in Forum report
- Multi-day exhibit table
- Special mention at opening and closing sessions
- Dedicated sponsor recognition on GCNF social media platforms
- An opportunity to address the full Forum audience on stage

Training & Technical Assistance Champion

\$15,000

Underwrite the Forum's multi-day technical workshop program, designed to strengthen government capacity by ensuring access to practical tools, peer exchange, and technical knowledge.

- 2 free registrations
- Medium logo on Forum webpage, onsite, and in Forum report
- Multi-day exhibit table
- Special mention at opening and closing sessions
- Dedicated sponsor recognition for the Training and Technical Assistance Workshops at the Forum

Forum Exhibitor

\$12,000

- 2 free registrations
- Medium logo on Forum webpage, onsite, and in Forum report
- Multi-day exhibit table

Travel Sponsor

\$8,000

- 1 free registration
- Small logo on Forum webpage, onsite, and in Forum report
- Multi-day exhibit table

GCNF will direct this sponsorship to help cover expenses for government attendance.

Collaborator

\$5,000

- 1 free registration
- Small logo on Forum webpage, onsite, and in Forum report

Supporter *(eligible for first-time non-profit Forum sponsors)*

\$1,500

- 1 free registration
- Organization name listed on Forum webpage

Customized Contributions

We are happy to work with interested sponsors on a custom package that suits your needs, including directing your contribution to a specific component of the Forum, such as a specific panel, meal, welcome reception, interpretation, research session, or workshop. **Contact Heidi Kessler at heidi@gcnf.org for more information.**

Individual donations to GCNF can be made [online](#). Any amount is welcome and appreciated.

To maximize visibility and planning opportunities, GCNF encourages partners to confirm support by July 1, 2026.

Contact us to learn more!

CONTACT: Heidi Kessler, Deputy Director, GCNF

EMAIL: heidi@gcnf.org



Fine Print

- All agenda setting, content development, and speaker selection remains under the sole authority of GCNF.
- All content is selected independently by GCNF and is based on technical merit and Forum priorities.
- Exhibit and sponsorship participation is subject to GCNF approval to ensure alignment with public-sector priorities and standards.
- GCNF welcomes content contributions from qualified experts on topics relevant to large-scale school meal programs. Calls for input will be shared in spring 2026 and selection will prioritize technical relevance, multi-partner submissions, hands-on activities, and government experiences.
- Many partners generously fund travel for government colleagues directly. This approach continues to be welcomed and encouraged.
- Exhibits are usually fairly modest, including a table, chairs, and banner space. (No food or sampling.)