

PROMOTING HOME-GROWN
SCHOOL FEEDING ACROSS AFRICA





BACKGROUND

From 2012 to 2014, the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil (CoE BRA) hosted several national delegations from African Union (AU) member states and organised many regional and international events in Africa. The aim of these activities was to foster countries' discussions and interest in school feeding, as well as its linkages to rural development¹. Due to this mobilization, in 2015, the WFP Centre of Excellence brought a high-level delegation to Brazil, with leaders from the AU Commission and ministers from African countries. The delegation exchanged knowledge with the Brazilian government and learned about Brazil's Zero Hunger Strategy. Special attention was given to the Brazilian home-grown school feeding programme. Sensitised by the Brazilian experience and by the ongoing advancement of school feeding in AU member states, the AU Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) decided to:

Include home-grown school feeding programmes in the **Continental Education Strategy;**

Promote an AU formal resolution, seeking member states' commitment to school feeding; and

Produce evidence to advocate for home-grown school feeding programmes across Africa.

School feeding programmes connected to rural development, especially smallholder farming, are known as home-grown school feeding programmes.









In 2016, the AU approved the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025 (CESA 16-25), a strategic framework for education aligned with Agenda 2063 - a continental document - and the global 2030 Agenda. CESA 16-25 aims to set up a "qualitative system of education and training to provide the African continent with efficient human resources (...)". The Strategy is designed to be implemented through a coalition of stakeholders, among which the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil is featured.

CESA's Strategic Objective 02 establishes a focus on creating healthy and conducive learning environments in schools, to expand access to quality education. In light of this objective, and with WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil's policy advice, in 2016, the African Heads of State (Assembly/AU/Dec 589) identified home-grown school feeding as a valuable opportunity to advance education, boost local economies, promote smallholder agriculture, and advance the Sustainable Development Goals. This decision also set the 1st of March as the African Day of School Feeding and established a Multidisciplinary Committee of African Experts on School Feeding to facilitate the implementation of this agenda.





The African School Feeding celebration stimulated AU member states to treat school feeding as a priority. Following this trend, during the first school feeding celebration, in Brazzaville, in March 2016, Senegal proposed to create a network for the Multidisciplinary Committee of African Experts in partnership with the African Union and the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil. Effectively, in 2016, the Pan-African School Feeding Network (REPANS) was established and an online knowledge platform was developed and launched. The WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil sponsored the first actions of the network and handed it over to the AU Commission in 2018. Since then, REPANS officials and members kept meeting during the African Day of School Feeding, annual AU/WFP Workshops on Home-Grown School Feeding, Global Child Nutrition Fora and WFP Regional Workshops on School Feeding.





EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING: THE SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING ACROSS THE AU STUDY

In 2016, the AU Commission was requested to develop a research on school feeding's impacts on inclusive, quality education in AU countries, and on how school feeding can facilitate progress across a range of sectors, including education, nutrition, health, agriculture and local development. The AU Commission invited the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil and the WFP Africa Office to convene the study.

One central idea for the continental study in school feeding is to conceptualise and develop policy-relevant knowledge for advancing CESA's strategic objectives. The WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil sponsored and conducted with an African research institution the Sustainable School Feeding across the African Union Study. Overall, the study synthesises the outcomes and multi-sectoral benefits of school feeding in AU member states. It relied on both secondary sources, as part of a structured desk review, and primary data, as qualitative research to build a scenario of the state of school feeding in the AU. The study then took the evidence and best

This study that was launched in 2018, during the African School Feeding Day, in Harare. Complementary to it, a report with 20 case studies on selected AU member states will be released to promote further reflection on the diversity of and innovations within school feeding programmes across the continent. This material will be prepared and published by the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil throughout 2019 and 2020. To ensure equitable representation of school feeding programmes, the focus countries for these case studies were selected in accordance with the AU's five geographic regions and in proportion to linguistic representation of the AU's official languages.

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