



SABER School Feeding

Towards Nationally Owned School Feeding Programmes

SABER (Systems Approach for Better Education Results)– School Feeding
This is a government-led process that helps to build effective school feeding policies and systems. These in turn provide the foundation for strong nationally-led and sustainable school feeding programmes that ensure school children receive the nourishment they need.



Country Experiences in 2014

The World Bank, WFP and PCD partnered in January 2014 to implement the SABER School Feeding tool under the leadership of governments and other engaged stakeholders. This led to identifying the strengths and weaknesses of school feeding policies using the SABER framework and planning for future action.

This is what governments say:

Benin: 19-20 March, 2014.

The SABER workshop demonstrates the commitment of the Government of Benin and its strategic partners to implementing a realistic policy on school feeding and nutrition. The government has committed to implementing the action plan that is the result of this workshop. The plan presents the contribution of all stakeholders and partners involved in implementing school feeding programmes in Benin. After conducting the SABER workshop, a government delegation from Benin travelled to the WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Brazil. This visit further helped in the development of a comprehensive action plan for the National School Feeding Programme.

Bolivia: 23-24 April, 2014.

SABER means “to know” in Spanish, and SABER has lived up to its name in Bolivia. Using SABER brought together all relevant ministries and stakeholders in learning more about the current school feeding-related policies and systems. They also acknowledged the importance of analysing them on decentralized levels. This led to planning the development of those systems, which will eventually lead to better nutrition and health conditions for school children.

Madagascar: 17-18 July, 2014.

The school feeding programme seeks to contribute to overall development by boosting the local economy through local purchases benefiting small-holder farmers. Conducting the SABER assessment was essential in order to build stronger systems. The national school feeding programme is **one of the pillars of Madagascar’s** General Policy, which views the fight against poverty as one of its top priorities, and whose challenge is to **ensure food security for vulnerable populations.**

Namibia: 17-18 July, 2014.

Namibia already had a plan of action for developing the Namibian National School Feeding Programme. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Education found SABER to be a beneficial analytical tool that could help in harnessing the current road map and ensuring that the policies and systems in place follow the internationally recognized standards on **best practices for school feeding programmes.**

Senegal: 21-22 January, 2014.

The SABER tool was helpful in Senegal. It allowed the government to identify the **key policy goals and areas of focus** in order to strengthen the national school feeding programme in light of the best global practices.



Sierra Leone: 10-12 June, 2014.

The SABER workshop hosted by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in Freetown assisted in analysing the policies and systems that are related to school feeding in the country and has contributed to drafting **Sierra Leone's first national school feeding policy, which is currently underway.** The exercise was an eye opener for many of the participants.

Tunisia: April 7-8, 2014.

The organization of the SABER workshop reflects the will of the Tunisian government and its strategic partners such as the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank, the **Imperial College London's Partnership for Child Development (PCD)** and SIFI to **design and implement policies and systems that strengthen Tunisia's school feeding programme and align with Tunisia's development agenda.**

Republic of Congo:

18-19 June 2014.

The idea of carrying out the SABER workshop in the Republic of Congo was interesting for many reasons. First SABER, as a **globally recognized approach**, helped the country compare its policies to those in other countries in the region and the world. Second, it helped highlight policy and institutional strengths as well as the areas that need to be further developed.



SABER is an initiative to collect and share data on educational policies and institutions in order to help countries strengthen their education systems. **SABER is based on the World Bank's systems approach from *Education Sector Strategy 2020: Learning for All*** that emphasizes the need for strong policies and institutions, not just increased resources, because having a comprehensive policy framework is the first step towards effective policy implementation.

One of the 13 key education system domains of the SABER tool is School Health - School Feeding, a common area of interest for the World Bank (WB), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Imperial College London's Partnership for Child Development (PCD). These partners and others have worked together to implement the SABER tool in several countries with an emphasis on those where WFP operates school feeding programmes.

SABER uses an evidence-based approach to analyse the school feeding policies using five internationally agreed upon policy goals. This tool helps identify strengths and gaps, fosters policy dialogue among stakeholders and therefore assists in planning capacity development activities and road maps with governments.

FIVE POLICY GOALS OF SABER SCHOOL FEEDING

- Policy Goal 1: Policy Frameworks
- Policy Goal 2: Financial Capacity
- Policy Goal 3: Institutional Capacity and Coordination
- Policy Goal 4: Design and Implementation
- Policy Goal 5: Community Roles