



USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program and WFP School Meals Partnership

Side event on the margins of the second regular session of the Executive Board

Wednesday, 15 November, 13:15–14:45

Auditorium, WFP Headquarters

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the largest donor to the WFP school meals programme and WFP is the largest provider of school meals worldwide. As global leaders in school meals, a strong partnership between USDA and WFP is critical for reducing hunger and improving education and nutrition through effective school meal programming.

Objectives

1. Raise awareness on the importance of the USDA and WFP partnership for strengthening national school meals programmes through the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole) and the Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program (LRP). Highlight the achievements of the USDA and WFP partnerships in building effective and sustainable school meals programmes, citing country case-studies.
2. Call to action for school meals stakeholders, governments, and the Rome-based agencies to form and strengthen innovative partnerships to deliver sustainable and effective national school meals programmes and recognize the multiple benefits.

Context

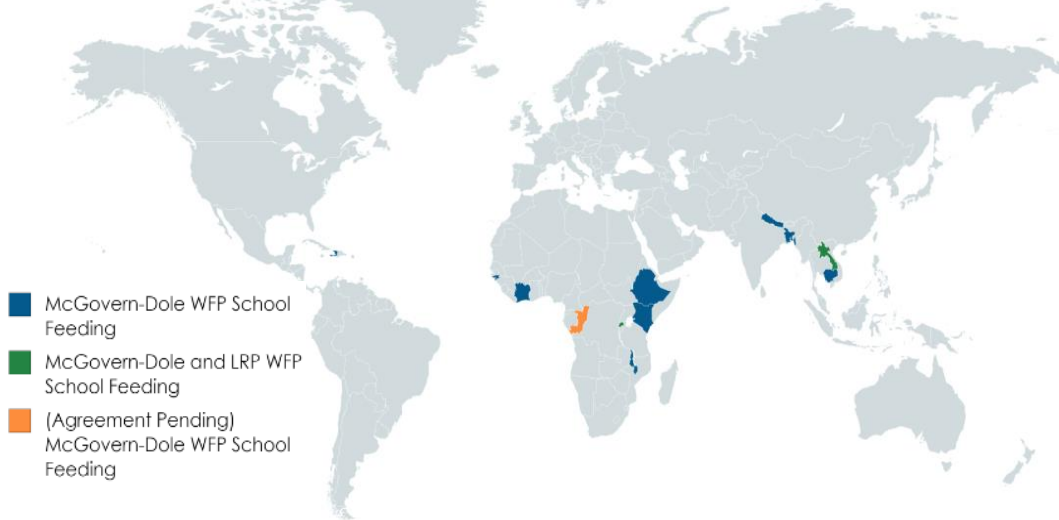
The USDA, through the McGovern-Dole Program, has been one of the leading donors and supporters of school meals activities worldwide, since inception 15 years ago. McGovern-Dole was authorized under the 2002 U.S. Farm Security and Rural Investment Act and named in honour of Ambassador and former Senator George McGovern and former Senator Robert Dole. The McGovern-Dole Program is dedicated to reducing hunger and improving literacy and primary education, especially for girls, through the donation of United States agricultural products, financial and technical assistance for pre- and primary school food for education, and maternal and child nutrition projects. Since inception, McGovern-Dole has served over 30 million school-aged children, and the USDA is currently supporting 34 active multi-year projects in 23 less-developed countries, with WFP as the largest implementing partner. As noted in the McGovern-Dole legislation, USDA is dedicated to McGovern-Dole graduation and sustainability of national school meals programmes and their benefits. In addition, the USDA administers the LRP which aims to strengthen the ability of local and regional farmers, community farmer groups, processors, and agribusinesses to provide high-quality commodities in support of development activities and emergency programming. Through a local or regional procurement mechanism, LRP aims to expedite, to the maximum extent practicable, the provision of cost-effective food aid.

McGovern-Dole is the largest donor to WFP’s school meals programme, valued at USD 375 million since 2013, and WFP is the largest provider of school meals worldwide. As global leaders in school meals, a strong partnership between USDA and WFP is crucial for strengthening national school meals programmes, a critical social safety net for reducing hunger and improving education and nutrition. WFP is currently implementing 13 projects (11 McGovern-Dole and 2 LRP) in 11 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, reaching 2,260,791 beneficiaries in FY 2016. These projects include activities supported by the USDA, such as improved literacy, access to improved water,

sanitation and hygiene, and nutrition education. USDA-supported WFP projects include capacity building with host governments, with support for productive study visits to the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil, and the application of the Systems Approach to Better Education Results (SABER) tool through workshops.

McGovern-Dole and WFP have made significant strides in ensuring that host

Map of active USDA-supported WFP projects



countries take over the provision of school meals and all associated activities once the McGovern-Dole project is completed. Through the provision of United States in-kind commodities, McGovern-Dole and WFP maintain school meals in the most vulnerable, food insecure, and challenging environments to reach regions until they are ready to be transferred to government-owned school meals programmes. In Kenya, where the goal is for universal school meals, WFP and McGovern-Dole are working together to support the Government of Kenya’s national home-grown school meals programme, focusing on drought-prone arid and semi-arid counties. In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, WFP-implemented McGovern-Dole and LRP projects are working at the local level to build the capacity of Village Education Development Committees to procure local commodities from smallholder farmers for school meals in remote Laotian communities. To ensure financial sustainability, the Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic school meals programme is further supported by a partnership with the World Bank.

Given the multifaceted nature of sustainable national school meals programmes, especially those linked to local agriculture and requiring a national funding commitment, continued innovative and diverse partnerships are critical. On advocacy and understanding of school meals, WFP and the World Bank Group have produced joint publications on school meals, including *Rethinking School Feeding: Social Safety Nets, Child Development, and the Education Sector* and *the Global School Feeding Sourcebook: Lessons from 14 Countries*. Drawing on the expertise of the Rome-based agencies and technical experts has led to the development of the Home-Grown School Feeding Framework Resource as a guiding document, and the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil will continue to support important capacity-building activities. In addition to raising awareness on what has been achieved between WFP and USDA’s McGovern-Dole and LRP Programs so far, a key objective is to be forward-looking on how the partnership can be further strengthened and engage with other critical stakeholders, donors, and government partners in further strengthening national school meals programmes.

Proposed agenda/speakers (TBD)

The event will be co-chaired by Jocelyn Brown, Deputy Administrator, Office of Capacity Building and Development, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, and David M. Beasley, Executive Director, WFP.

Welcome remarks:

- Co-chair: Jocelyn Brown on USDA McGovern-Dole and LRP
- Co-chair: Executive Director David Beasley on WFP commitment to school meals, and partnership with the USDA

McGovern-Dole-supported WFP Programming:

- Presentation from WFP Country Director Annalisa Conte on Kenya and Mr Abdi Habat, Director of Basic Education, Ministry of Education
- Presentation from WFP Country Director Sarah Gordon Gibson on Laos
- Partnerships, Tools and Coordination for Strengthening School Feeding, RBA coordination and the Home-Grown School Feeding
- Short Remarks from WFP, Steven Were Omamo, Deputy Director of Policy and Programme Division
- Short Remarks from IFAD, Mr Sana Jatta, Director East and Southern Africa Division
- Short Remarks Mr Günter Hemrich, Deputy Director of FAO Nutrition and Food Systems
- David Ryckembusch WFP Senior Programme Advisor on the technical RBA collaboration for the Home-Grown School Feeding Framework Resource*

** WFP, the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger (WFP CoE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF), the Partnership for Child Development (PCD) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) have joined forces to create a Resource Framework for the design, implementation and scale up of government-led HGSM programmes. This initiative was funded by Canada.*

Closing remarks and call to action:

- Co-chair: Jocelyn Brown
- Co-chair: Executive Director David Beasley

Questions, answers, and comments

Audience and target messaging

This event is open to all participants at the second regular session of the Executive Board. WFP regional directors, country directors and country office staff from active or potential McGovern-Dole countries, representatives from other host and donor countries and organizations with an interest in supporting school meals programmes and, foreign government officials who can advocate for sustainable school meals programmes are particularly encouraged to participate. This side event will be an opportunity to showcase the strong partnership that WFP and USDA's McGovern-Dole Program have formed since the Program's inception in 2002, aided by a concerted coordination effort and partnerships formed across multiple levels of the organizations.