

**SCALING
IMPACT:
SCHOOL
MEALS
ANNUAL
REPORT
2025**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Our deepest appreciation goes to our staff across **field offices, regional offices, support offices**, and the **Global Centre**. This report is a reflection and celebration of your commitment, hard work, innovation, and passion. Thank you for showing, every day, what it means to serve children with excellence and heart.

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To learn more about the ENOUGH Campaign, visit: www.wvi.org/enough

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Paul Kinuthia

Senior Director, Food, Cash and Markets

FOREWORD

In 2025, World Vision made significant strides in advancing school meals programming globally. This progress was driven by a deliberate and coordinated effort to elevate school meals as a strategic priority. We designated a global focal point for school meals, developed a comprehensive road map, and revamped the School Meals Manual to reflect best practices and emerging needs. World Vision also stepped into a leadership role, convening civil society organisations engaged in school meals, amplifying children's voices, and conducting robust advocacy both internally and externally to champion school meals as a right and a smart investment.

These efforts were not in vain. The impact is evident throughout this report: in the stories of children whose lives have been transformed, the strengthened national systems, and the growing momentum behind the school meals movement. School meals have proven to be more than just food; they are a gateway to education, health, dignity, and hope.

Children were not merely beneficiaries; they were leaders. Through child-led research and global platforms, their voices rang clear: school meals must be a right, not a privilege.

As we look ahead, we recognise that the journey is long. But our resolve is strong. If we sustain these efforts and continue to collaborate with like-minded partners, we will move closer to achieving universal school meal coverage by 2030, which is the shared goal of the School Meals Coalition, where World Vision remains an ardent and active partner.

To our donors, partners, and staff: thank you. Your unwavering support fuels this movement. Together, we are building a future where every child, everywhere, can learn, grow, and thrive with a full stomach and a hopeful heart.

Paul Kinuthia

Senior Director, Food, Cash and Markets

World Vision International.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every morning, millions of children arrive at school hungry. Their minds are ready to learn, but their bodies are too weak to focus. For many, a school meal is the only reliable source of nutrition they receive all day. It is more than a plate of food; it is the difference between staying in school or dropping out, between surviving and thriving.

We spend like eight hours at school. Imagine eight hours going by hungry? This is not okay.” – Girl, 15, Lebanon.

Despite unprecedented progress, the global school feeding landscape still reveals stark inequities. According to the WFP State of School Feeding Report, 2024¹, **466 million children now receive school meals**, an increase of **80 million since 2020**. Yet, **half of all primary school-aged children remain unreached**, with coverage **at just 27% in low-income countries**, compared to **80% in high-income countries**.

In response to this urgent need, World Vision launched the **ENOUGH Campaign** to end child hunger and malnutrition, with school meals at its core. In 2025, World Vision reached over one million children across 20 countries, delivering daily nutritious meals through integrated programmes that connect nutrition, WASH, climate resilience, education, and local livelihoods.

Our advocacy efforts helped influence **17 policy changes across 11 countries**, strengthening national school feeding systems that now reach over **35 million vulnerable children**. We saw innovation and leadership across regions: **South Sudan** launched a national strategy to reach 200,000 children by 2030, while **Rwanda’s “Dusangire Lunch”** concert mobilised citizens to fund meals for local schools.

In **Mozambique**, World Vision engaged 74 farmer groups in local procurement to supply fresh produce, while in **Kenya**, robust engagement by CSOs led to increased budgetary allocation for school meals, signalling stronger national commitment.

At the **School Meals Summit in Brazil**, World Vision led global discussions and launched the **Child-Led Research Report – “School Meals in Our Words”**, representing 1,235 children from 13 countries. For the first time, children were given a seat at the table during a Coalition plenary.

We want to be part of the solution. We want to work alongside adults, share our ideas, and transform school meals into an everyday right.” – Girl, 15, Brazil.

Beyond the numbers, FY25 offered powerful lessons. We learned that school meals are most effective when integrated with other interventions such as nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, health, climate resilience, and livelihoods. We also learned that children have clear ideas about what works and want to be heard. Moreover, strong coordination within World Vision and across partners multiplies impact. Evidence remains one of our strongest tools for influence, shaping advocacy, improving programme quality, and unlocking new resources. And ultimately, sustainability depends on national leadership and community ownership.

Now, the task is to keep going. We believe that with sustained effort and collaboration with like-minded partners, universal school meal coverage by 2030, which is the goal of the School Meals Coalition, is within reach.

¹ <https://publications.wfp.org/2024/state-of-school-feeding/>

THE GLOBAL FACE OF HUNGER AND SCHOOL MEALS



673 MILLION

people are facing hunger globally



about **8.3%** of the world's population

Source: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP & WHO

Nowhere is the need more urgent than in **Africa**, where over **280 million people** are undernourished and nearly a third of children under five are stunted or wasted. In fragile contexts such as South Sudan and Somalia, school meals are often the only consistent source of food for displaced children. Yet only one in four school-aged children receives a daily meal, with average annual spending of just **\$20 per child**—less than the cost of a textbook.

Across **Asia and the Pacific**, progress and pressure coexist. The region delivers the largest number of school meals globally, reaching **260 million children**, yet access remains uneven. In countries where poverty and food prices continue to rise, millions still arrive at school hungry. Here, school meals are not a luxury but a lifeline; —a stabilising force that fuels learning and relieves families struggling with daily survival.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, strong national systems have made school meals a cornerstone of social protection. Countries such as Brazil and Chile invest heavily in home-grown models that

link farmers to schools and food to education. But growing inequality and rising food prices are testing even the most established programmes. The challenge ahead is not only to maintain coverage, but to ensure quality, variety, and nutrition for every child.

In the **Middle East and North Africa**, years of conflict, displacement, and economic collapse have left millions of children dependent on humanitarian aid. For many families in places like Yemen and Syria, a school meal is the single reason their children can attend class. When rations stop, classrooms empty. In these fragile settings, a meal represents more than nutrition; it is protection, normalcy, and hope amid crisis.

While progress has been made, school meals still do not reach those who need them most. Bridging this gap will require sustained investment, stronger national leadership, and deeper collaboration across governments, civil society, the private sector, and communities.

FY25 IMPACT IN NUMBERS



World Vision is providing school meals to **1,024,527 children**



with a total funding of **US\$27,189,184**



for implementation in **20 countries**

CORE INDICATORS



1,024,527

Total number of children receiving wet or dry school meals



31,920.59

Total MT distributed for school feeding



\$972,694

Total amount of cash and voucher assistance for school feeding

SECTORAL INDICATORS



822,723

Total number of children gaining access to basic handwashing services



879,580

Total number of children gaining access to basic sanitation services



76,208

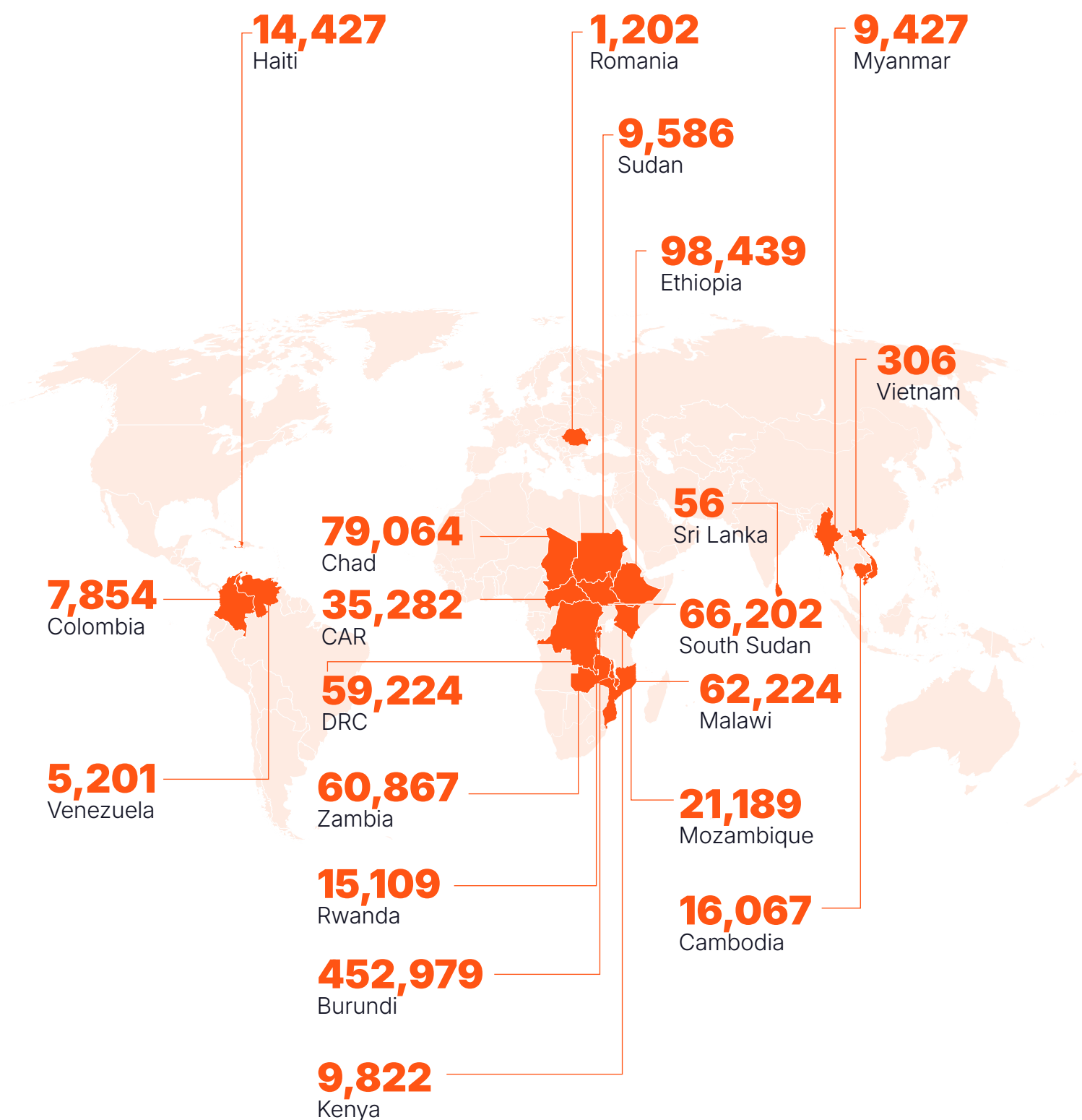
Total number of children receiving psychosocial support



126,558

Total number of children/ schools trained in smart agriculture

IMPLEMENTING OFFICES CHILDREN RECEIVING SCHOOL MEALS



FIELD AND SUPPORT OFFICE SPOTLIGHT

School Meals Strategic Plan South Sudan

World Vision South Sudan has been providing school meals since 2003, reaching over 66,000 children in 2025 alone. To meet rising needs and reach more vulnerable children, the team has developed a [School Meals Strategy for 2025-2030](#). The goal is to reach 200,000 children with nutritious meals by 2030, and, in the process, support learning, health, and long-term resilience. To make this vision a reality, the national team has already begun engagement with potential donors and partners.

Civil Society Mobilisation in Kenya

World Vision Kenya has led [civil society mobilisation on school meals](#) in Kenya, especially around policy influence and budget advocacy. World Vision is actively advocating for the government to increase the budgetary allocation for school meals. So far, this has resulted in an increase of Ksh 900 billion for school meals in a supplementary budget in the government year 2024/2025. World Vision Kenya is also part of the National School Meals Coalition and is co-leading the Technical Working Group on Policies, Legislation, Advocacy and Financing on School Meals, alongside the Ministry of Education and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Innovative Resource Mobilisation in Rwanda

World Vision Rwanda [ENOUGH Ambassador and gospel singer, Israel Mbonyi](#), organised a sell-out concert on Christmas Day 2024, in partnership with WV Rwanda and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), under the programme named "DUSANGIRE LUNCH" (Let's Share Lunch). Money raised at this concert went towards school feeding programmes as part of the ENOUGH campaign

The Month of School Meals in Tanzania

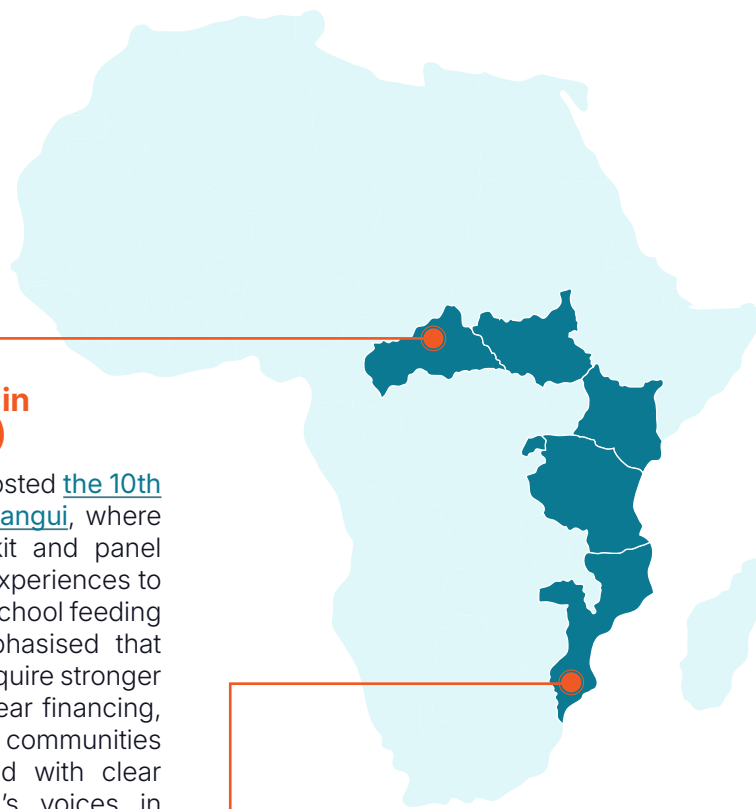
In August 2025, World Vision Tanzania rolled out a [School Meals social mobilisation campaign](#), targeting staff, schools, parents, faith leaders, media, and government actors. Some of the activities that took place include:

- school-based events (fruit tree planting, school assemblies with storytelling and drama, as well as nutrition education)
- community engagement through faith leaders, market days, and parent-teacher meetings
- Media engagement through press releases, radio

talk shows, SMS and WhatsApp campaigns, and social media content

- Policy engagement through stakeholder roundtable with governments, NGOs, children, and the private sector
- Staff morning devotions.

These coordinated efforts are expected to ignite lasting change, deepening community ownership, influencing policy, and strengthening the foundation for sustainable, inclusive, and nutritious school meals that empower every child to thrive.



Amplifying Children's Voices in Central Africa Republic (CAR)

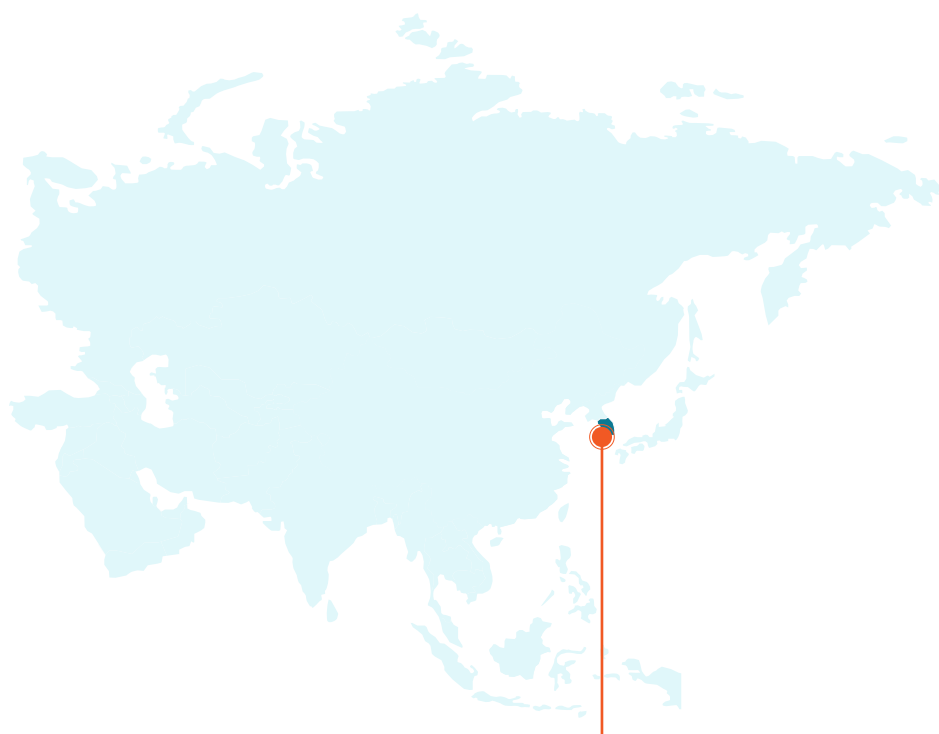
In February 2025, World Vision co-hosted [the 10th African Day of School Feeding in Bangui](#), where children took centre stage in a skit and panel discussions, using their voices and experiences to advocate for accountable, child-led school feeding programmes. The discussions emphasised that successful school meals initiatives require stronger national policies, predictable multi-year financing, and deeper engagement with communities and partners. The panel concluded with clear recommendations: embed children's voices in programme design, secure long-term funding commitments, and strengthen partnerships to scale a home-grown, just model of school feeding across CAR.



WV Scales up school feeding program in Malawi

Mozambique

In 2025, World Vision [Mozambique's PARES project](#) revitalised small-scale farmers' participation in school feeding programs through Local and Regional Procurement. Groups like the Lions of Manganira in Zambézia Province received seeds, training, and equipment to grow vegetables for local schools. They then donated 30% of their production to support daily meals for children. This initiative directly contributed to improved nutrition and school attendance, with children no longer skipping classes due to hunger. Beyond immediate impact, the programme also strengthened farmers' organisational capacity, financial literacy, and market access, enabling them to sustain production and support schools long-term. Overall, 74 farmer groups across Zambézia and Nampula provinces are now engaged in providing nutritious food, demonstrating a scalable, community-driven approach that links local livelihoods with school feeding and food security outcomes.



School Meals Roundtable Dialogue in Korea

In July 2025, World Vision Korea participated in a roundtable organised by the World Food Programme and Korea's Ministry of Agriculture and Food, presenting on our global School Meals programme. The discussion highlighted World Vision's expertise and the importance of school meals in fragile contexts. The WV team also advocated for government engagement in the School Meals Coalition, as well as the submission of national commitments, emphasising school meals as a strategic tool to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children.



School Gardens in Haiti

In northern Haiti, World Vision's [school garden initiative at Grand Pré National School](#) empowered 23 sixth-grade students to grow and harvest vegetables, which were then used in the school cafeteria to prepare nutritious meals for all 194 students. Launched in November 2024, the program combined agricultural and nutrition training, fostering self-sufficiency, improving children's diets, and building a sense of community. In the context of a severe national food crisis affecting nearly 2.85 million children, the garden demonstrates a practical and scalable approach to enhancing food security, reducing family costs, and promoting local ownership of school nutrition initiatives.

POLICY, ADVOCACY AND INFLUENCE

- World Vision participated in the [Global Child Nutrition Forum](#) held from the 9th to the 12th of December 2024. This was a major opportunity for World Vision to influence global leaders, secure partnerships, and advocate for increased support and implementation of school meal programmes.
- **School Meals Community of Practice (CoP):** We launched the [Community of Practice](#) on Viva Engage. The CoP is designed to build a strong community of school meals practitioners from both advocacy and programming to connect, share knowledge, and drive impactful school meals initiatives. **CSO Network for School Meals:** Over 70 civil society organisations gathered to align advocacy efforts ahead of the [School Meals Summit](#). Discussions focused on launching the CSO Network, receiving updates from the Coalition, and co-developing a joint CSO manifesto by August.
- **Policy Brief:** We have developed a policy brief, which has been endorsed with evidence by the Research Consortium. This brief uses proven models and case studies to demonstrate how to scale sustainable, home-grown school meals programmes globally. Offices are encouraged to support national-level advocacy, especially in countries yet to submit Coalition commitments.



World Vision strengthens nutrition for children in Venezuela

CHILD-LED RESEARCH ON SCHOOL MEALS

Amplifying children's voices from the local to the global remained central to our approach this year. Through global child-led research on school meals, 1,235 children aged 3–18 across 13 countries designed their own questions, interviewed peers, analysed results, and shared insights on what school meals mean to them. Their findings, compiled in the global report "[School Meals in Our Words: Choosing Our Future](#)", highlight how school meals contribute to dignity, inclusion, learning, and health. Children called for safer kitchens, larger portions, and more variety, but above all, to be heard in shaping policies that affect them.

The report was launched at the **2nd School Meals Coalition Summit** in Fortaleza, Brazil, where child researchers Dávila (Brazil) and Giselle (Brazil) presented their findings to ministers, UN agencies, and civil society leaders. Their participation marked the first time children had directly addressed the global Summit plenary, ensuring their lived experiences became part of policymaking dialogue.

CSO Impact Assessment Survey and Joint Statement World Vision, in partnership with the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF), led a **CSO Impact Assessment Survey**, gathering insights from 35 civil society organisations across 30+ countries. The assessment revealed that CSOs are a "quiet powerhouse" within the School Meals Coalition, delivering meals, driving innovation, and strengthening government partnerships.

Findings showed that CSOs reach millions of children through home-grown models, integrate school feeding with agriculture and WASH, and pioneer clean cooking and climate-smart solutions.

Drawing on these results, the **CSO Network for School Meals** issued a [Joint Statement](#) ahead of the **2nd Global School Meals Summit**, reaffirming civil society's **2023 Call to Action**. The statement urged governments to co-design inclusive school meal policies, share responsibility across sectors, and invest in community-led innovation. It positioned CSOs as strategic partners to governments, bridging grassroots expertise with national policy, and ensuring no child is left behind.

2nd School Meals Coalition Global Summit – Fortaleza, Brazil The 2nd Global School Meals Coalition Summit, held in Fortaleza, Brazil, in September 2025, was a defining moment for World Vision's advocacy and influence work. Bringing together over **80 member states, 60 partner organisations, and 30 ministers of education, health, and finance**, the Summit reaffirmed global commitment to expanding inclusive, sustainable, and nationally owned school meal programmes.

World Vision's leadership was visible throughout the Summit—from shaping policy dialogue and moderating high-level sessions, to amplifying children's and civil society's voices on the global stage. The organisation's delegation, led by **Dana Buzducea** (Partnership Leader for Advocacy and External Engagement), **Mary Njeri** (Global Director for School Meals), and **Martha Bedane** (Senior Advisor, Local to Global Advocacy), engaged extensively with key international partners, including the [World Bank](#), [Global Child Nutrition Foundation \(GCNF\)](#), and the **Novo Nordisk Foundation**. These strategic bilateral meetings advanced collaborations on research, financing, and evidence generation. During the **panel discussion**, the young delegates presented the key findings of the global child-led research—reflecting the voices of **1,235 children across 13 countries**—and delivered a passionate call for governments to listen to children's experiences in shaping school meal policies. The session's impact was amplified through strong media visibility, with features on platforms such as ReliefWeb, Church Times, and UCB Radio reaching over 15 million people worldwide.

World Vision also co-hosted a vibrant **marketplace exhibition booth** with the CSO Network, showcasing flagship resources including the **Child-Led Research Global Report**, the **Policy Brief on Nourishing Children's Futures**, and the **CSO Impact Assessment Survey**. The booth served as a dynamic hub for dialogue with donors, policymakers, and partners, and featured a screening of the **child-voice** during the plenary session.

ENHANCING PROGRAMME QUALITY



School Meals Technical Working Group: A dedicated TWG was established with representatives from core technical areas to strengthen school meals programming. Its role is to offer strategic guidance, promote innovation, and foster collaboration for school meals. The TWG spearheaded the launch of the revised manual, as well as sectoral implementation guidelines, and the development of school meals dollar handles.



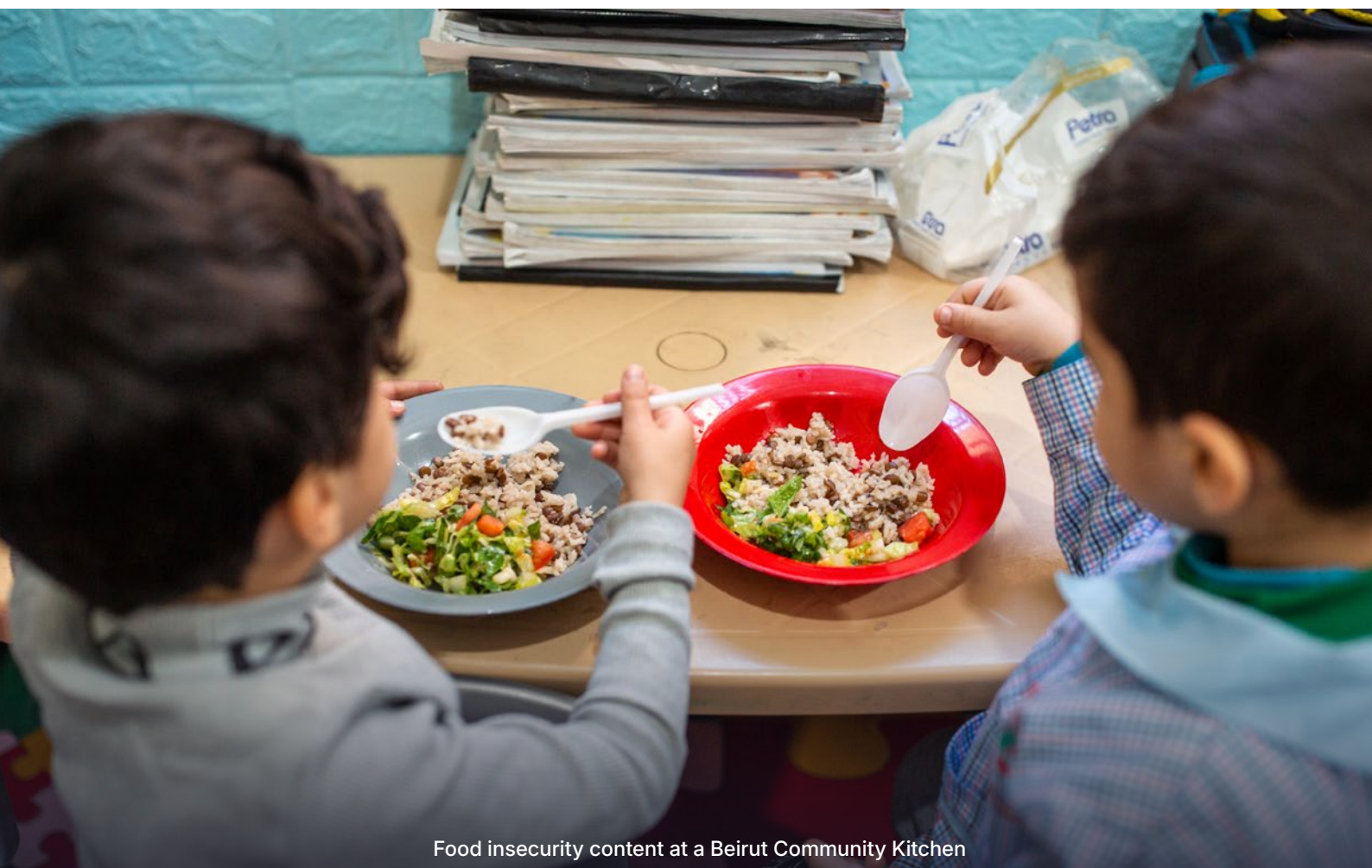
Revised School Meals Manual: The School Meals Manual was revised and disseminated. It now integrates key sectoral elements such as environmental sustainability, child protection, cash and voucher assistance, WASH, nutrition, amongst others. The manual is also available in French and Spanish to improve accessibility and global reach.



Launch Webinars for the School Meals Manual: Four regional webinars introduced the revised manual. Over 350 participants attended, with sector leads presenting on the school meals connection with education, WASH, nutrition, child protection, climate, and livelihoods.



The [Q1 Report Card](#), [Q2 Report Card](#), [Semi-Annual Report](#), and [Q3 Report Card](#) have been published and shared with both internal and external stakeholders.



Food insecurity content at a Beirut Community Kitchen

LESSONS FROM FY2025

FY25 has marked significant strides in both scaling up School Meals and deepening our learning. This journey has revealed the key drivers of success, the elements that ensure sustainability, and the guiding principles that must shape our path forward.

1. Integration Drives Transformative Impact

In FY25, we saw that school meals deliver the greatest impact when strategically integrated with complementary interventions, including nutrition, WASH, health, climate resilience, and livelihoods. Whether embedding meals into existing projects or enriching feeding programmes with additional components, integration consistently enhanced sustainability and deepened transformation. For example, in Mozambique, a World Vision Hong Kong-supported proposal is combining school meals with WASH infrastructure to improve health outcomes.

2. Children as Partners

Our School Meals work in FY25 reaffirmed a powerful truth: children are not just beneficiaries; they are insightful partners in shaping school meals programmes. From a skit performed during the Africa Day of School Feeding in the Central African Republic to child-led research and plenary speeches at the Global School Meals Summit, children consistently demonstrated that they have clear, actionable ideas about what works. Their active participation challenges us to go beyond consultation and embrace children as co-creators of solutions that affect their lives. When we listen and respond to their voices, our programmes become more relevant, inclusive, and impactful.

3. Coordination Turns Effort into Impact

During the year, we learnt that effective coordination is a force multiplier. Internally, stronger alignment across sectors enabled us to operate as a unified system rather than fragmented streams, thereby unlocking synergies and accelerating results. Externally, our engagement through the Civil Society Network for School Meals fostered strategic collaboration, minimised duplication, and amplified collective advocacy. This approach ensured that

World Vision's contributions complemented, rather than competed with, those of other actors, thus positioning us as a trusted partner and strengthening the overall ecosystem for school meals.

4. Evidence is a Catalyst for Influence

FY25 reinforced that robust evidence is one of our most powerful tools for driving change, shaping advocacy, improving programme design and unlocking new resources. Initiatives like child-led research and the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Assessment elevated our credibility and positioned World Vision as a thought leader in global school meals discussions.

5. National Ownership Is Essential for Scale and Sustainability

FY25 underscored the fact that government leadership is non-negotiable for lasting impact. Where ministries were actively engaged in policy development, budget advocacy, and programme implementation, school meals evolved from isolated projects into embedded national priorities. Building state capacity and integrating school meals into national systems will remain a strategic focus. This approach ensures long-term sustainability, drives scale, and positions school meals as a core component of national development agendas.

6. Unlocking Potential Through Non-Traditional Partnerships

School meals intersect with multiple sectors, such as education, nutrition, health, livelihoods, and climate resilience, hence creating unique opportunities to engage with non-traditional partners, especially from the private sector. In Kenya, our proposed collaboration with the KenGen Foundation demonstrates how corporate partnerships can strengthen and expand local school feeding systems. Moving forward, we will leverage the cross-sectoral nature of school meals to attract diverse partners and unlock new sources of funding, innovation, and influence, positioning School Meals as a shared platform for sustainable development.

LOOKING AHEAD: SUSTAINING MOMENTUM THROUGH ENOUGH

BY MARY NJERI, DIRECTOR, SCHOOL MEALS

As the ENOUGH Campaign enters its extended phase through the end of FY28, it is evolving into a more integrated and impact-driven platform. In FY25, school meals stood as one of the campaign's three core priorities, underscoring their central role in addressing child hunger and malnutrition and driving systemic change. This evolution reflects the growing recognition that ending child hunger requires more than food; it demands systemic change that empowers communities, strengthens local economies, and builds resilience to climate shocks.

Looking forward, ENOUGH will focus on three strategic priorities:

- Promoting sustainable, child- and nutrition-sensitive food systems that ensure long-term access to nutritious meals for vulnerable children.
- Highlighting the plight of children caught in the nexus between conflict and hunger, ensuring their needs remain visible and prioritised in humanitarian responses.
- Holding governments accountable to the nutrition and school meals commitments made in FY25, translating pledges into action and impact.

School meals remain central to this vision. As a proven, scalable intervention, school meals offer a powerful entry point for achieving multiple outcomes: nutrition, education, gender equity, social cohesion, and climate resilience. In FY26, World Vision's School Meals Unit will continue to align with ENOUGH's evolving priorities by:

- Enhancing programme quality and coverage in 40 field offices, including using the School Meals Manual and documenting lessons learned.
- Expanding donor engagement with foundations and corporates, and integrating school meals into broader sector proposals and country strategies.
- Strengthening global influence through participation in key forums and partnerships, including research on refugee access to school meals.
- Promoting digital transformation to improve monitoring, feedback, and accountability in school meals delivery.

As we look ahead to 2026 and beyond, our focus will be on driving momentum, amplifying evidence, and mobilising partnerships to ensure school meals are not only sustained but scaled as a cornerstone of child well-being and community resilience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

School Meals
Report Card
#2



School Meals
Semi-Annual
Report 2025



School Meals
Capacity
Statement



World Vision strengthens nutrition for children in Venezuela

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