

OUTCOMES REPORT:

2nd School Meals

Coalition Global Summit

World Vision

ENOUGH

Summary Overview & Major Summit Outcomes

The [2nd School Meals Coalition Global Summit](#), held in Fortaleza, Brazil 18-19 September 2025, brought together 80+ member states, 60 partner organisations, and 30+ ministers of education, health, and finance. The Summit celebrated the Coalition's rapid growth since its launch in 2021 with 46 founding governments to current membership of 111.

As of September 2025, school meal programmes reach 466 million children worldwide, supported by an annual investment of USD 84 billion, with 99% of funding sourced domestically. The Summit highlighted school meals as a cornerstone of education, nutrition, and resilient food systems, and as a critical driver of human capital development.

The following highlights are among the key Summit outcomes:



New Members & Partnerships: 23 new member states and regional bodies including Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Uganda, and ECOWAS joined the Coalition. 46 new partners also came on board, expanding the Coalition's global reach and influence.



Reports & Data: The [State of School Feeding Worldwide Report](#) and a new [Global Database](#) were launched, providing evidence for policy and investment. School meals were repeatedly cited for their critical role in enabling quality education, childhood nutrition, equity, and sustainable food systems.



National Commitments: More than 40 governments submitted new commitments, which expanded the total number of government commitments to 64. Moreover, fifty governments shared

Voluntary National Reviews, highlighting progress and challenges in implementing inclusive, government-led school meals programmes.



Research & Evidence: The Research Consortium delivered its 4th annual statement, emphasising school meals as long-term human capital investments. World Vision, alongside Dávila, 14-year-old youth leader from Brazil, launched the child-led research report "[School Meals in Our Words: Choosing our future.](#)" This landmark initiative placed children's perspectives at the heart of policy dialogue, with findings presented during [Session 7 of the Summit plenary](#). The report offers strong recommendations for institutionalising child and youth participation in school meal programme design through regional fora, summits, and global platforms.



Financing & Partnerships: The [Sustainable Financing Initiative](#) expanded, aiming to support countries in scaling and sustaining school meals programmes. Indigenous Peoples' representatives called for culturally appropriate approaches that respect traditional foods and practices.



Civil Society Engagement: The School Meals Civil Society Network, convened by World Vision staff Martha Bedane, Senior Advisor Local to Global Advocacy and Impact, and Mary Njeri, Global School Meals Director, developed a [Joint Statement](#) urging governments to strengthen inclusive, equitable, and locally owned school meal programmes. World Vision's convening role was recognised as central in building partnerships between CSOs, governments, and multilateral partners to advance the Coalition's agenda.

World Vision's Summit Engagement Objectives

World Vision's engagement at the Second School Meals Global Summit was anchored in the [ENOUGH campaign](#) focused on addressing child hunger and food insecurity, and sought to catalyse global action to ensure every child had access to nutritious school meals by 2030. The key objectives included advancing policy change informed by World Vision programming and child-led research, amplifying children's voices in decision-making, promoting joint action for accountability, encouraging new government memberships and stronger commitments to the Coalition, and advocating for stronger government-CSO collaboration and increased investment in school meals.

To achieve these goals, World Vision mobilised its national offices through a coordinated advocacy and follow-up process, as outlined by the School Meals Impact Taskforce (SMIT). Around 40 offices prioritising school meals in their national ENOUGH campaigns received support to conduct effective advocacy with their governments, track progress, share best practices, and address capacity gaps.

World Vision's Summit Contributions

Leading Official Plenary Session 7, Governments and Partners Advancing School Meals for Every Child:

World Vision International, represented by Dana Buzducea, Partnership Leader for Advocacy and External Engagement, led and moderated Session 7 of the School Meals Coalition Summit. The session focused on existing and new efforts to expand partners' support to achieve the Coalition goals, including a call to action by Civil Society Organisations. It featured contributions from H.E. Mr. Vernet Joseph, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development, Haiti; H.E. Prof. Mr. Torerayi Moyo, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Zimbabwe; Ms. Haydee Diaz, representing Catholic Relief Services and the Civil Society Organization Network, and Dávila, 14-year-old Child Researcher from Fortaleza, Brazil. **Notably, this was the only session during the School Meals Coalition Summit that included children's participation.**



From left: H.E. Mr. Vernet Joseph, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development, Haiti; Dávila, 14-year-old Child Researcher from Fortaleza, Brazil; Dana Buzducea, WV Partnership Leader for Advocacy & External Engagement; H.E. Prof. Mr. Torerayi Moyo, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Zimbabwe and Ms. Haydee Diaz, representing Catholic Relief Services and the Civil Society Organization Network.



Child-led Research: World Vision launched the "[School Meals in Our Words: Choosing our future](#)," report developed from the experiences of 1,325 children across 13 countries with school meals, and presented by Dávila, a young leader from Brazil, during Session 7 of the Summit Plenary. Following the panel discussion, Dávila presented the report to Fernanda Pacobahyba, President of the National Fund for the Development of Education of Brazil. Young Brazilian advocates pushed for increased public funding for school feeding in Brazil, as well as improvements in the nutritional quality of the meals provided in public schools.

◀ World Vision Brazil Child Advocates Giselle, left, and Dávila, sharing copies of the child-led research at World Vision's booth in the Marketplace area of the Summit.

Advocacy & Influence: World Vision contributed to policy dialogue at the Summit by linking school meals to education outcomes, nutrition security, and sustainable food systems. Through its dual role - amplifying children's voices and strengthening civil society participation - World Vision helped shape the Summit's emphasis on equity, participation, and local ownership. As part of this effort, World Vision implemented a child-led social accountability initiative across Malawi, Tanzania, the Central African Republic, and Sri Lanka. Using participatory scorecards, children evaluated school feeding programmes based on food availability, menu diversity, quality, frequency, and satisfaction. In partnership with the aforementioned offices, World Vision applied its proven Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) model to test key indicators and generate evidence. These insights, which formed the [Amplifying Children's Voices Through Social Accountability: A Multi-Country Case Study Report](#), directly informed the Summit's policy brief, demonstrating the power of child-led advocacy to influence national and global agendas.



From left: Partnership Leader for Advocacy & External Engagement Dana Buzducea, child advocate Dávila, Fernanda Pacobahyba, President of the National Fund for the Development of Education of Brazil, and child advocate Giselle.

As a result of World Vision Brazil's targeted advocacy efforts, the opening day of the Summit on 18 September 2025 featured a key milestone that underscored our influence and commitment to advancing the school meals agenda. The Brazilian state of Ceará approved [a landmark law](#) banning the supply, sale, and advertising of ultra-processed foods in and around schools - a major victory for advocacy on behalf of Brazilian children. This achievement set a powerful example for similar legislative action in other contexts to promote healthier school environments.

CSO Convening: As a convener of the Global School Meals Civil Society Network, World Vision, under the leadership of Martha Bedane and Mary Njeri, mobilized CSOs in the lead-up to the Summit, enabling them to showcase progress since 2021 through a rapid assessment that captured their impact across multiple countries. The [assessment results](#) provided key insights which highlighted CSOs as the Coalition's quiet powerhouse - backing governments with funding, research, training, and community muscle. CSOs amplify local expertise while they drive policy, deliver meals, and build momentum. Utilising insights from the assessment, the Network developed a [joint statement](#) with renewed commitments, reinforcing civil society's role as a strategic partner to governments, ensuring that inclusive, community-driven solutions remain central to the future efforts of the School Meals Coalition.



Members of World Vision's Delegation to the Summit stand with members of the CSO Network for School Meals, including Heydee Diaz, Country Representative for CARE International in Honduras and Heidi Kessler, Deputy Director of the Global Child Nutrition Foundation.



Child advocates Dávila and Giselle engage with World Vision Partnership Leader for Advocacy & External Engagement, Dana Buzducea, in front of World Vision's booth.

Creative Booth Displays: The Marketplace at the Summit venue served as a dynamic platform for ministers, partners, and practitioners to exchange insights, evidence, and innovations driving school meal programs. World Vision hosted two high-impact booths, one representing World Vision and another showcasing the Civil Society Network. These spaces featured cutting-edge research, policy briefs and reports, including findings from child-led social accountability initiatives and global advocacy efforts, amplifying the voice and influence of CSOs in the school meals movement. These booths provided an opportunity to display evidence, share success stories, and engage directly with decision-makers and technical experts. Through interactive displays and printed materials, World Vision facilitated networking, inspired new partnerships, and highlighted the collective achievements of civil society in promoting equitable and effective school meal programmes worldwide.

World Vision's Delegation

World Vision's official delegation to the Summit included two Brazilian child advocates, Dávila and Giselle, as well as World Vision International staff:

- Dana Buzducea, Partnership Leader, Advocacy & External Engagement
- Mary Njeri, Global Director for School Meals
- Martha Bedane, Senior Advisor Local to Global Advocacy and Impact
- Pamela Zuñiga, Child Participation Specialist
- Christa Giesecke, Advisor for External Engagement

As well as several colleagues from WV Brazil, especially:

- Reginaldo Pereira da Silva, World Vision Brazil Advocacy Manager
- Thiago Crucciti, World Vision Brazil National Director

The delegation also benefitted from the invaluable support of several colleagues from the Fortaleza office who stepped in to help during the summit: James Duarte, Amanda Martins, Zilmara Alves, and Raquel Vieira.

World Vision's full delegation standing in front of World Vision International's booth and the booth dedicated to the CSO Network for School Meals at the Global School Meals Coalition Summit.



Communications Highlights

Media and External Engagement Report

The School Meals Summit served as a powerful platform to elevate global awareness and advocacy around the importance of school meal programmes. Media coverage was secured across television, radio, online, and print, with **16 pieces** reaching a combined audience of **over 15.5 million people worldwide**. This cross-platform visibility helped amplify key messages on child nutrition, protection, and the strategic value of investing in school meals. The diverse media presence across countries and sectors reinforced the role of school meals as a catalyst for child development and educational equity.

Key Highlights:

Global Reach: Coverage included outlets in the UK, Argentina, Finland, Spain, Cambodia, Mozambique, and global platforms.

Media Breakdown:

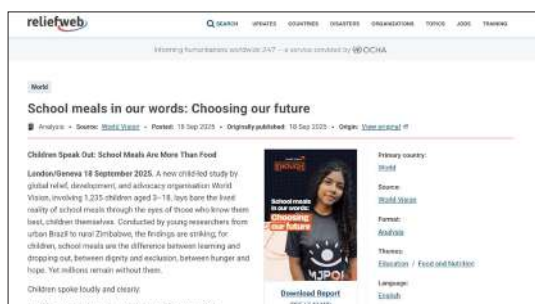
- Television: 1 piece
- Radio: 2 interviews
- Online: 13 articles and op-eds

Total Reach: 15.5 million

Key Themes: School meals as strategic investments, their role in fragile contexts, and their impact on child well-being and education.

Notable Coverage

- ReliefWeb (Global): Two op-eds highlighting school meals as a strategic and often overlooked economic investment, reaching over 3.2 million readers.
 - [School Meals in our words: Choosing our future](#), published 18 September 2025
 - [School Meals: The World's Most Overlooked Economic Investment](#), published 26 September 2025
- Church Times (UK): "[School-meal programmes 'a strategic investment'](#)" by Rebecca Paveley, published 19 September 2025, reaching 205,000.
- UCB Radio (UK): [Interview with Mary Njeri](#), Global School Meals Director, released on 18 September 2025, reaching 608,000 listeners.
- Good Morning Finland: [Live interview on the importance of warm school meals](#), 24 August 2025, reaching 1.5 million viewers.
- Phnom Penh Post (Cambodia): [Op-ed by Amanda Rives on the impact of school meals in fragile contexts](#), published 19 September 2025, reaching 178,524.



Strategic Impact

- Strengthened advocacy around school meals and child protection.
- Positioned school meals as a high-impact investment in global development.
- Enhanced visibility of organisational leadership through interviews and authored contributions.

The ENOUGH Child-Led Research Global Report “School meals in our words: Choosing our future” is available at wvi.org/child-led-research in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. National Child-Led Research reports (including Spanish translations for Peru, Dominican Republic and Guatemala, Portuguese for Brazil, and Khmer for Cambodia) are available at wvi.org/child-led-research.

- An [op-ed by Giselle from Brazil](#), who took part in the research and the School Meals Coalition Summit was also developed.
- Child-Led Research Report feature on the [School Meals Coalition’s website](#).
- Social media posts from partners [Hungry for Action](#) and [School Meals Coalition](#) about the report.



World Vision remains steadfast in its commitment to advocate for nutritious school meals as we look towards 2026 and key upcoming advocacy moments. We will continue to champion child-centred, climate-resilient food systems and urge governments to fulfil their promises to end child hunger and malnutrition worldwide.



Please contact Martha Bedane (martha_bedane@wvi) should you have any questions around this engagement and school meals advocacy.