



Federal Republic of Somalia  
Ministry of Education, Culture & Higher Education  
Office of the Minister

Ref: WWH&TS/XW/21/03/2022

March 08, 2022

To: School Meals Coalition: Nutrition, Health and Education for Every Child

Subject: Approval Letter


The Federal Government of Somalia recognizes that school meals play an important role in food system transformation as they combat child hunger, poverty and multiple forms of malnutrition. They attract children to school and support children's learning, long-term well-being and health. School meals promote gender equity by supporting girls and boys to attend and graduate from school and reduce the risk of child marriage, early pregnancy and gender-based violence. They also contribute towards a holistic approach to child well-being through the integration of education, nutrition, health and social protection interventions, and serve as a platform to teach children about healthy diets and sustainable lifestyles.

Children and their families are not the only ones who benefit. Scaling up higher quality school meals programmes strengthens national and local food systems, markets and economies by using locally grown food where appropriate and expanding opportunities for small-holder farmers.

We envisage a world where every child has the opportunity to enjoy a healthy and nutritious meal in school by 2030, supporting the full realization of their human potential. To achieve this critical goal, we commit ourselves to working together towards the full implementation of the following:

- The federal government of Somalia, Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education, commits to finalizing, endorsing and implementing the National School Feeding Policy.
- The Government of Somalia commits to prioritizing the School Meals Program and ensure it is well articulated in the government plans; National School Feeding Policy, the Education Sector Analysis, Education Sector Strategic Plans 2022-2026, Somalia National Development plan- 9.
- The Government of Somalia government commits to establish a multi sectoral coordination mechanism for the implementation of the School Meals Programme.
- Commits to engage and bring on board new partners to support school meals both technically and financially especially the private sector.
- Commits to advocate on the importance of School Meals Programme to increase local and national awareness.

Sincerely

  
H.E Abdullahi Abukar Haj  
Minister

