



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme

NUTRITION GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR SAFEGUARDING SCHOOLCHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS' RIGHT TO FOOD



**This project
is designed to
achieve two
outcomes:**

- » promote the adoption of healthy food practices and the consumption of nutritious school food to improve the diets of children and adolescents;
- » enhance the recognition and awareness of adequate school food as a legal requirement to support children's right to food.



WHY?

Regular access to nutritious foods complemented with quality food education is key for supporting children and adolescents' learning attainment, better nutrition and right to food.

Millions of children and adolescents receive meals and foods during school time, and in many vulnerable contexts these are a significant part of their daily diets. School food (including meals provided as well as what is sold and promoted in and around school premises) should therefore contribute to fulfill the priority nutrition requirements of schoolchildren and adolescents.

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the contribution of foods provided to families through school systems has become even more imperative for vulnerable or at risk children.

Implementing nutrition guidelines and standards for school programmes can improve the quality, quantity and adequacy of the foods and meals in schools. However, setting these can be an intensive process and not all countries have the information, time or resources to do it.



WHAT?

The project aims to develop a global methodology to design nutrition guidelines and standards that ensure school food and meals provided are aligned to the nutrition and sociocultural priorities of students, while considering the available resources and possibilities of school programmes.

Additional measures such as food and nutrition education, policies to further improve the school food environment, and stronger coherence with procurement regulations, will complement the methodology to enhance the impact of the nutrition standards, as well as their integration into national legal frameworks.

Aspects such as food availability, school infrastructure, social and cultural meanings of food will be considered by the methodology to facilitate its use in different food system contexts.

HOW?

- » Conducting a series of assessments of children's needs and practices, local food systems, school infrastructure, current school meal composition, policy and legal structures and others to define priorities and possibilities.
- » Designing, piloting and promoting a participatory and context-adaptable process to design school food nutrition guidelines and standards.
- » Developing user-friendly guidance and manuals for a set of complementary interventions to enhance the impact of school food nutrition guidelines and standards.
- » Assessing and strengthening individual and organizational capacities to effectively design, implement, evaluate and revise nutrition guidelines and standards and complementary measures.
- » Setting and facilitating community and youth involvement mechanisms for social control of nutrition guidelines and standards implementation and to enhance accountability.
- » Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnering with ongoing initiatives to advance the global discussion around nutritious school food and food education-related topics.



WHO?

The Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
in partnership with
the World Food Programme and



WHERE?

The nutrition guidelines and standards methodology and its complementary measures will be piloted in



and will be promoted globally via regional workshops and online sessions.

A GLOBAL ONLINE KNOWLEDGE HUB

for school food and food education will be set up to:

- » enhance the dialogue around the need and potential of nutrition guidelines and standards;
- » support the dissemination and uptake of the methodology and allow the exchange of information among different target groups;
- » stimulate the involvement and participation of stakeholders and right bearers through interactive features and a “youth corner”.



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