

## **ADDITIONAL EVENT / PARALLEL SESSION**

ORGANIZED BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

### **DEVELOPING NUTRITION GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL MEALS: A HOLISTIC APPROACH WITH A FOOD SYSTEMS AND RIGHT TO FOOD LENS**

Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023  
Time: 09:30-10:30 am  
Venue: University of Hohenheim, Room: B2

Given the significant investment that governments around the world have made in their school meal programmes, it is urgent to ensure that their impact on children's and adolescent's nutrition outcomes is optimized. One important way to do this is by implementing data-driven and evidence-informed nutrition guidelines and standards that not only consider the diet and nutrition priorities of students, focusing on the most vulnerable, but also aspects of socialization, equity and social justice, as well as limitations and sustainability of the school food system.

Even though many countries have already nutrition standards in place for their school meal programmes, many others do not or are in need of revision. Most importantly, countries report that there is a lack of validated and step by step guidance on how to set such standards, as well as lack of options in contexts where data for these population groups is of low quality or very limited.

In an aim to fill this gap, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), supported financially by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, are currently developing a global methodology that countries can adapt and use to formulate holistic nutrition guidelines and standards (NGS) for their school meal programmes. The methodology applies a food systems and human rights lens and is structured around six main iterative phases.

The methodology will be accompanied by complementary guidance focusing on key action areas that can support the implementation and enhance the impact of NGS. These include creating a policy and legal environment that enables the use of NGS as an instrument to support children's right to food in schools, ensuring adequate operationalization of the NGS through procurement, fostering coherence with existing policies to regulate the school food offer, and complementing the NGS with action-oriented food and nutrition education strategies.

The theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Hidden Hunger: Improving food and nutrition security through school feeding, is thus an opportunity to introduce the methodology and complementary guidance package that is being developed by FAO and WFP to a range of researchers, practitioners and policy advisors, and to gain insights from such stakeholders on its future application.

Objectives of the session:

- To introduce participants to the FAO-WFP's global methodology for designing holistic nutrition guidelines and standards for school meals
- To highlight key interventions along the school food system that support the implementation and effectiveness of school meal nutrition standards
- To showcase a global platform that participants can use to exchange good practices and lessons learned on school nutrition interventions
- To get insights from participants on the potential applications or expected challenges of applying the NGS methodology

Schedule:

### DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 – PROGRAM

Venue: University of Hohenheim

#### PARALLEL SESSION

ORGANIZED BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME:

#### DEVELOPING NUTRITION GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL MEALS: A HOLISTIC APPROACH WITH A FOOD SYSTEMS AND RIGHT TO FOOD LENS

Chair: Fatima Hachem (FAO, Italy)

Room: B2

09:30-09:40 am	Fatima Hachem (FAO, Italy): A comprehensive framework to school food and nutrition
09:40-09:55 am	Melissa Vargas (FAO, Italy): The need for a methodology to design holistic nutrition guidelines and standards for school meals
09:55-10:05 am	Michele Doura (WFP, Italy - recorded): A guidance package of action areas to enhance the implementation and impact of nutrition guidelines and standard
10:05-10:15 am	Jyoti Felix (WFP, Cambodia - recorded): Application of the methodology in Cambodia
10:15-10:30 am	Feedback from participants