



RAES

Red de Alimentación Escolar Sostenible
Rede de Alimentação Escolar Sustentável
Sustainable School Feeding Network

• Signature of the Declaration of Commitments

• Adhesion to the RAES

• Designation of government focal points



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Sustainable School Feeding Network



Joint declaration of commitment to advances in school feeding policy in Latin America and the Caribbean



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Whereas:

Hunger affected between 713 million and 757 million people in 2023, 152 million more than in 2019, before the pandemic;

The prevalence of undernourishment in the world is estimated at 9.1%, of which approximately 41 million people are in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Around 133.4 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean, about 22.7 per cent of the population, do not have access to a healthy diet, and the region has the highest cost of purchasing healthy food;

About 2 billion people are overweight or obese due to poor diets and sedentary lifestyles, and 27.3 per cent of adults in Latin America and the Caribbean are obese;

Climate change is having a gradual and significant impact on food production and costs, further reducing access to sufficient and healthy food;

Rising food prices, especially for fresh food, encourage the consumption of cheaper diets of poor nutritional quality;

The structural problems of inequality, labour informality and poverty in the region were exacerbated by the pandemic. One of the main consequences was the closure of schools during this period, affecting some 167 million students in Latin America and the Caribbean, and affecting the provision of school meals to these students, who often relied on school meals as their main source of daily nutrition.

Data: SOFI 2024, FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2024. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 – Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. Rome.

Recognising that:



The current scenario calls for debate, reflection and, above all, concrete action to address the region's challenges;



School Feeding Programmes (SFPs) are recognised as key programmes in ensuring food and nutrition security for students, with a positive contribution to the cognitive and social development of children, adolescents and young people, especially those in situations of social vulnerability;



The provision of food at school is a social strategy that helps to address crises of all kinds - social, economic, environmental and health, as it is an effective tool for the achievement of the human right to adequate and healthy food;



PFSs work to meet global impact goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDGs 1 (end poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (health and well-being), 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 10 (reducing inequalities), 12 (responsible production and consumption) and 17 (partnerships to achieve the goals), among others.



We express our commitment in:

1. Participate with other Latin American and Caribbean countries in the activities promoted by the RAES to address and mitigate current problems and challenges in promoting the development and improvement of school feeding policies and programmes;

Develop and improve school feeding policies and programmes.



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We express our commitment in:

2. Contribute to the dialogues and exchanges promoted by the RAES, with a view to the development of national school feeding policies;

Participate in the activities promoted by the RAES.

Dialogue on the regional agenda and school feeding policy

We express our commitment in:

3. Define and jointly build a regional school feeding agenda that will contribute to the development of the priorities of the SFP at the national level, particularly with regard to:

- Funding of national programmes;
- Coverage of student population;
- Participatory governance;
- Promotion of healthy diets;
- Implementation of Food and Nutrition Education (FNE);
- Ensuring an appropriate environment for food storage, preparation and delivery;
- Implementing and strengthening local public procurement for family farming;
- Contribution of SFP to building more inclusive and resilient agri-food systems in the face of climate change challenges;

We express our commitment in:

4. Promote the RAES as a space for dialogue among LAC countries in the search for strengthening their school feeding policies and programmes, and as a spokesperson for regional needs and proposals in this area;

**Promote the RAES to a regional
dialogue strategy on school feeding**

We express our commitment in:

5. Participate in the joint development of RAES guidelines and regulations to meet the needs of member countries.

Jointly developing the guidelines and regulations of the RAES



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Recognising that the strengthening of school feeding at the regional level favours the governance of national school feeding programmes, and agreeing to this Joint declaration of commitment to advances in school feeding policy in Latin America and the Caribbean

I endorse this declaration.

City and date

Legal Representative

Signature of the country by the authority linked to the ministry/secretariat responsible for school feeding
Stamp of the responsible institution



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ANNEX I - ADHESION FORM FOR MEMBER COUNTRY OF THE SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING NETWORK (RAES)

Hereby, _____ (institution), responsible for the implementation of the School Feeding Programme of _____ (country), represented by _____ (name), holding the position of _____ (position), declares that is aware of and in agreement with the *Joint declaration of commitment to advances in school feeding policy in Latin America and the Caribbean*, and expresses interest in formally joining the SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING NETWORK (RAES) as a member country.

Being aware that,

- a) The commitments of the RAES are aligned with the achievement of the global targets and impacts established by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the achievement of the human right to adequate food for all students in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- b) The membership in the RAES, as proposed in this document, does not require any financial contribution from the participating countries.
- c) The RAES regulations will be discussed and approved by the member countries.

I sign the present form,

City and date

Legal Representative

Signature of the country's authority attached to the ministry/secretariat/department responsible for school feeding programme

Stamp of the corresponding organization



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ANNEX II - DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION TO THE SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING NETWORK (RAES)

Hereby, I, _____ [name], that hold the position of _____ [ministry, deputy minister or secretary] of the _____ [institution], of _____ [country], designate as representatives to the RAES the following members of the government:

NOMINEE
Name:
Position:
Contact (e-mail and telephone):

ALTERNATE 1
Name:
Position:
Contact (e-mail and telephone):

ALTERNATE 2
Name:
Position:
Contact (e-mail and telephone):

The above mentioned will assume the role of spokespersons/ focal points of this country for the activities, actions and decisions taken in the RAES, within the scope of their attributions.

City and date

Legal Representative

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