



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

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

The Libyan Ministry of Education, representing the Government of National Unity, is unequivocally committed to elevating the standard of education in Libya and fostering a conducive learning environment for all Libyan students. This commitment includes ensuring optimal nutrition to facilitate both intellectual and physical development among students. We acknowledge the integral role of school meals in achieving food security, social protection, economic growth, and in addressing issues of hunger, poverty, disease, and social isolation. Recognizing the positive impact of wholesome and sustainable school meals on the local economy, the government has pledged its participation in the School Meals Alliance. This initiative is designed to enhance school feeding programs at the local and global levels, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2023.

Our commitment is to shape a brighter future for our children through the implementation of a sustainable national school feeding program in Libya. Our strategic plan includes:

1. Elevating the number of students receiving school meals from 50,000 to 2,100,000 by 2026, commencing with the academic year 2023-2024, with a particular focus on disadvantaged regions such as southern Libya. Our aspiration is to expand this program to all Libyan schools across all cities by 2030.
2. Enhancing health facilities and infrastructure in all schools and conducting educational programs to impart healthy practices and prevent foodborne illnesses during the distribution of school meals.
3. Developing a comprehensive national strategy and policy framework by the end of 2025 for the effective implementation, financing, and sustainability of the school feeding program in Libya. This strategy will establish explicit guidelines for a consistent and standardized approach at the national level.
4. Collaborating closely with the Libyan government to secure an annual budget for the school feeding program, covering expenses like food procurement, logistics, sanitation, and supervision. The budget will be reviewed periodically and adjusted to meet program requirements, aligning with the overall social protection plan. We aim to foster a healthy and nurturing learning environment for students, ensuring their academic success. For the program's long-term success, we are exploring innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry to leverage local resources and stimulate economic growth, job opportunities, and sustainability.

5. Engaging in cooperation with neighbouring countries to exchange knowledge and establish agreements on the school feeding program. This is aimed at optimizing the use of regional resources and expertise and enhancing the likelihood of project success at both local and regional levels through mutually beneficial exchanges.
6. Conducting annual awareness campaigns across all regions in Libya, promoting the importance of school feeding. Following the initial success of our first campaign in March 2023, we plan to continue these regular campaigns in partnership with civil society organizations. The effectiveness of these campaigns will be evaluated through annual surveys, allowing for necessary improvements. We will also organize conferences and workshops to raise awareness and garner community support for the program across all societal sectors.
7. Building 1,500 schools over the next three years, with a goal of 500 schools annually. To facilitate school feeding, we aim to equip each school with a kitchen. The project's goals also include the use of clean energy for school operations and responsible recycling for waste management. Furthermore, we intend to collaborate with various stakeholders to implement eco-friendly technologies.
8. Establishing a comprehensive database for the school feeding initiative in Libya to document all project actions and outcomes for efficient monitoring and tracking. This will help ensure that the program achieves its intended objectives and alleviate any concerns about potential corruption.

In conclusion, these commitments reflect our determination to fulfill the needs of our children, both now and in the future. We eagerly look forward to collaborating with the School Meals Alliance and gaining valuable insights as we work towards this noble goal. We anticipate forging meaningful relationships and making a lasting impact on the lives of future generations.

Signature:
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Date: 15.7.2023

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