



COMMITMENT DOCUMENT
School Meals Coalition
Nutrition, Health and Education for Every Child
 Commitment Document for Sri Lanka

The Government of Sri Lanka expresses its strong support for school meal programmes as a policy lever to drive and strengthen human capital, social and economic growth and sustainable food systems.

We are convinced that this programme is a systemic solution that helps combat child hunger and poverty; supports child nutrition, learning, long-term well-being and health equity; strengthens food systems and local economies; and promotes gender equality by keeping girls in school.

We believe school meals programmes are about much more than food in school. They help to improve and diversify children’s diets, teach children how to eat better and support national and local markets and food systems by using locally grown food where possible, improving opportunities for smallholder farmers and local catering businesses, many led by women.

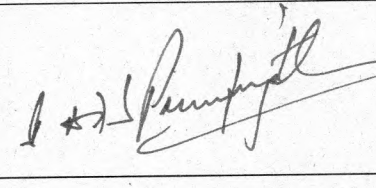
At a time in which world leaders are having to tackle several crises as once, such as the education, the food and the climate crisis, school meals should be positioned as a central, cross-cutting intervention that will contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.

Sri Lanka as a proud member of the School Meals Coalition announces the following commitments towards its goals:

Commitment	Category¹	Target	Deadline
Sri Lanka will have a School Health Policy	1	Implement the School Health Policy in all schools and work accordingly	2024
Establish a sustainable financing initiative comprising a trans ministerial budget line for the school meal program and increase the yearly	2	All public schools – Grades 1 to 9 (age 5-14)	2030

¹ The categories to be included in this column are the ones listed earlier in this document on page 2: (1) policy commitments; (2) financing commitments; (3) institutional commitments; (4) programme design and coverage commitments; (5) evidence and data generation commitments; (6) advocacy and partnerships commitments.

allocation from USD 61 million to USD 204 million			
Establish a State School-Nutrition Supported Fund to strengthen the resilience and shock responsiveness of the financing capacities of the NSMP and ensure swift allocation of funds if need be.	3	The fund will allow the State as well as individuals or structures locally or internationally to allocate cash and goods by way of gifts, donations or contributions in cash or kind for the purpose of improving the health, nutrition and well-being of children in state schools	2024
Increase the coverage of the National school meal programme to make it universal for public schools in the primary sector	4	Provide school meals to all primary school children in public schools	2026
Extend the NSMP to the universal coverage of public-owned secondary schools. Our vision would be the achievement of full coverage of the NSMP from grades 1 to 12 by 2050.	4	Provide school meal to all school children up to grade nine in public schools	2030
Scale-up the existing home-grown school feeding programme. 70% of the food used to prepare school meals is locally produced.	4	Food suppliers and monitoring mechanisms for all schools participating in the NSMP	2025
Ensure 100% of schools are up to the national WASH promotion standard (appropriate number of latrines, hand washing stations and availability of soap).	4	100% of public-owned schools.	2026
Fortified rice will be mandatory in all the NSMP meals containing rice.	4		2026
Ensure each student receives one dental care visit per year and that all school areas are covered by free dental clinics.	4	100% of students	2026
Develop a country case value for money study for school feeding to be shared with the regional and global community.	5	With support from the GSMC research consortium	2025
Implement a digitalisation strategy and tool that would allow the monitoring of the National School health policy at all levels (school / provincial / national).	5	100% of public-owned schools.	2026

The Minister of Education will represent the country in Coalition ministerial meetings and advocate for healthy nutritious meals in the region.	6	
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Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
"Isurupaya" Battaramulla