

**ВАЗОРАТИ  
МАОРИФВА  
ИЛМИ ҶУМҲУРИИ  
ТОҶИКИСТОН**



**МИНИСТЕРСТВО  
ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ  
И НАУКИ РЕСПУБЛИКИ  
ТАДЖИКИСТАН**

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**Secretariat  
School Meal Coalition**

Subject: School Meal Commitments of the  
Republic of Tajikistan

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan 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.

In 2022, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan endorsed the State Program for the Development of School Meals for 2022-2027 aimed at implementing effective mechanisms for ensuring food security and creating favourable conditions for maintaining and strengthening the population health, health of the children, ensuring food security, improving students' participation in the learning process and learning outcomes through the sustainable development of school meals programme and social protection of the population in the Republic of Tajikistan based on the implementation of a number of policy documents, including the Concept for improving school meals in schools of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Strategy for sustainable development of school meals in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2027.

The implementation of the school meal development program with support of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and development partners makes it possible to forming a basis for analysing the processes of organizing school meals, including the renovation of infrastructure and the refurbishment of schools, the creation of interschool bakeries, the construction of school greenhouses, the development of training courses for cooks and capacity building of school principals.

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.

Currently, in total of 3911 schools are operating in the country, of which 53.4% have canteens necessary for organizing school meals, more than 22% of schools have school gardens and plots where food can be grown to improve school meals ratio. Schoolchildren's diets have been developed, taking into account the availability of local products and national traditions, aimed at speeding up the shortage of basic microelements.

In 2021, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan initiated fund allocation for school meals from the state budget for the total amount of more than 1 million US dollars in two years (2021-2022).

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, in particular those 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.

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

Develop and endorse transition plan from the United Nations World Food Program School Feeding Development Project funded by development partners to the National School Feeding Program funded from the government budget.

Improving the nutrition of students and raising the standard of living of families, especially the poor, through:

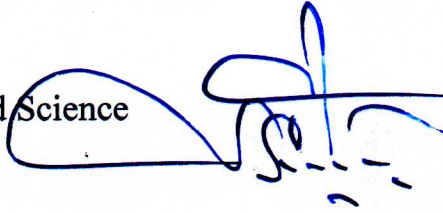
- improving the efficiency of the school food system, ensuring accessibility, and increasing the coverage of primary school students with hot meals reaching more than 50% by 2027
- upgrade, renovate and ensure technological restructuring of school canteens, development of modern production and logistics infrastructure for reaching 100% of schools by 2027.
- establish sustainable market for agricultural products of local producers and the formation of sustainable and long-term links between agricultural producers and school catering establishments.

Decrease morbidity of students, especially chronic diseases and promote health

through building the healthy nutrition culture.

Increase the protection and readiness against internal and external threats and ensure food safety in the country.

Ministry of Education and Science  
Republic of Tajikistan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned over the text of the Ministry of Education and Science.

Rahim Saidzoda