

WFP Media Advisory

19 August 2024

10th REGIONAL SCHOOL MEALS FORUM FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN SET TO KICK OFF IN MEXICO.

MEXICO CITY – The 10th Regional School Meals Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean is taking place in Mexico City on the 27-29 August. Organized by the Government of Mexico and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), this high-level event will discuss the importance of implementing sustainable and quality school meal programmes in the region while highlighting their contribution in other sectors including the food systems, support to smallholder farmers, improving child nutrition and health and strengthening climate action.

The forum will showcase governments' commitment and achievements to school meals and the role of partnerships including the School Meals Coalition, in a robust exchange of data and evidence; knowledge and best practices; and experiences and opportunities.

In 2022, a total 80.3 million children in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools received school in the region. Most of these children live in South America (63.2 million), followed by Central America and Mexico (13.3 million), and the Caribbean (3.8 million).

In 2024, School Meal Programmes are helping to expand access to better diets for school children, supporting their long-term well-being, and helping them to learn better and thrive. Programmes can play a critical role in encouraging children to go to school and realise their full potential.

***** Media are invited to attend the opening session in person on 27 August 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (local time) *****

Participants to the opening session:

Ruy López Ridaura, Undersecretary of Prevention and Health Promotion and National Convenor for Food Systems, Secretary of Health, Mexico
Carl Skau, WFP Deputy Executive Director
Lola Castro, WFP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean
Carmen Burbano, WFP Director of School Meals and Social Protection Unit
Peter Grohmann, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mexico



Following the opening session, there will be opportunities for individual media interviews with participants.

Event Details:

WHO: Government representatives from education, social development, health, agriculture, and finance ministries from more than 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, International Financial Institutions, UN Agencies, Academia, civil society, international and regional experts.

WHEN: 27-29 August 2024

WHERE: Mexico City - 'Los Pinos' Cultural Complex (Adolfo López Mateos room)

Media registration: Journalists who wish to attend the opening session are required to register by sending an email to sofia.granados@salud.gob.mx, indicating: full name, name of the media and mobile phone number.

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The United Nations World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

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For more information please contact

Alexis Masciarelli, WFP/ Panama City, Mob. +507 69399866, alexis.masciarelli@wfp.org

Sofia Granados Lagunas, Ministry of Health of Mexico, Tel. +52 5543912616, sofia.granados@salud.gob.mx