



## **2010 Global Child Nutrition Forum**

### **Preliminary Report**

Representatives from 18 countries participated in the Global Child Nutrition Foundation's (GCNF) 12th annual Global Child Nutrition Forum. Held in Accra, Ghana, from June 1 to June 5, 2010, this was the second consecutive Forum to take place on the African continent. Countries represented at the Global Forum included: Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Forum brought together 130 leading international school feeding experts, the largest gathering of its kind, signaling the global movement to implement school feeding programs. The Forum's theme, *The Multisectoral Approach: Linking School Health and Nutrition, School Feeding, and Local Agricultural Production*, focused on strategies for coordinating and strengthening these programs. In addition to delegates from African and South Asian countries, many of whom represented ministries of health, education or agriculture, other active participants represented the World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, World Food Programme, and public and private sector organizations and industries.

The GCNF mission is to expand opportunities for the world's children to receive adequate nutrition for learning and achieving their potential. The Global Forum is a core element of GCNF's school feeding technical assistance program. GCNF's collaborating partner for the Forum was the Partnership for Child Development (PCD), Imperial College London. PCD is a global consortium of civil society organizations, academic institutions and technical experts dedicated to improving the educational achievement of children through national health and nutrition programs.

The five-day Forum consisted of presentations and panel discussions relevant to implementing sustainable school feeding programs, school health, and local agricultural production. Key school feeding program themes addressed during the Forum included:

- macro policy development to support and coordinate programs;
- capacity building to ensure program support;
- country status reports and information exchange;
- Home Grown School Feeding models and strategies;
- effective program design and implementation;
- creating an enabling environment for the transition to sustainable school feeding programs;
- models for the extended benefits of school feeding;

- the role of the private sector; and
- analytical tools for the measurement of quality, cost effectiveness and sustainability.

Additionally, Forum participants traveled to the Adenta Community School on the outskirts of Accra for a day-long school feeding field trip to observe school feeding activities firsthand. From there, participants were visited one of four additional sites related to their specific interests, including visits with local rice farmers and caterers.

The Forum concluded with a training workshop in the use of the GCNF-produced *School Feeding Toolkit: A Resource for Assessing Needs and Planning Sustainable School Feeding Programs*. Both new and returning delegates received *Toolkit* training to help them implement their country's school feeding program. This intensive day-long technical assistance session continues to serve as the culminating portion of the Forum.

Recent calls have been made for countries to increase funding for school feeding and to link school feeding with local agricultural production. During the closing session, Forum attendees issued a call to action via the *Accra Communiqué*, which called for the inclusion of school feeding in the international agenda, especially at the July 2010 African Union Summit in Kampala, Uganda. Their call to action builds on:

- the 2010 Education for All (EFA) Addis Ababa Declaration that asks EFA partners to intensify efforts to support school feeding as an initiative that targets the most marginalized;
- the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme's (CAADP) key policy presenting home grown school feeding as a means to "increase food supply, (and) improve incomes for the poor and reduce hunger and malnutrition";
- the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, where the G8 pledged to "stimulate sustainable growth of world food production, by promoting increased investment in agriculture, including through development assistance, and with particular attention to small-hold farmers".

The Accra Communiqué has since been circulated throughout the global media.

Contributors and speakers included:

- Professor Donald Bundy, The World Bank
- Hon. Joseph Yieleh Chireh, Minister of Local Governance and Rural Development, Ghana
- Dr. Lesley Drake, Partnership for Child Development, Imperial College
- Bibi Giyose, CAADP/NEPAD
- Dr. Namanga Ngongi, The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
- His Excellency Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Osun State Governor, Nigeria
- David Stevenson, United Nations World Food Programme
- Gene White, President, Global Child Nutrition Foundation