



CRS' School Feeding Programs: changes and adaptations during COVID-19

Cornelia Sage, Chief of Party, CRS Laos

CRS and School Feeding

- 60+ years experience
- In 2021, will serve meals to 650,000 students in 9 countries
- Generous support from USDA's McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition program
- Support local ownership of school feeding through increasing capacity and commitment



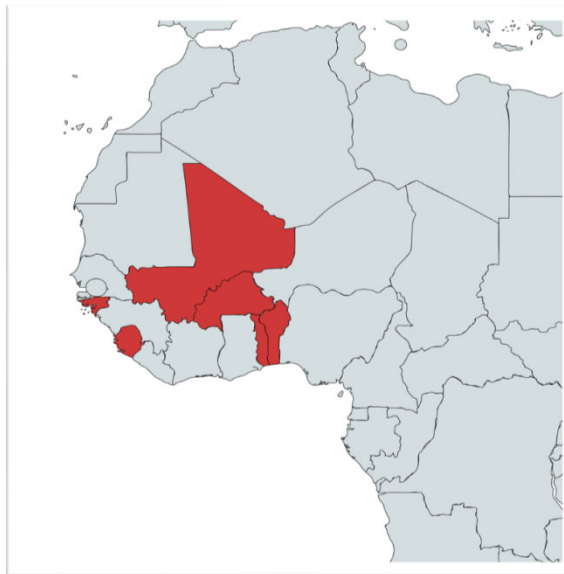
CRS School Meal Programs

Central America



Guatemala, Honduras

West Africa



Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone,
Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Togo,
Benin

Southeast Asia



Laos



Programming Adaptations during School Closures

- Take Home Rations instead of School Meals
- Home Learning Materials
- Hygiene Kits/Handwashing/Cleaning materials
- Transitioning trainings, monitoring, and outreach

Conditions for Adaptive Programing during School Closures



- Work with national governments and ministries of education
- Work with a broad range of stakeholders- other school meals implementers, food producers, private sector, etc.
- Flexibility of donors (USDA)
- Use of technology

Adaptations During School Reopening

- Shift in how we roll out programming
- School meals adaptations
- Focus on WASH
- Some concern around dietary diversity



Moving Forward, What is Needed?

- National, provincial, and community level contingency plans that respond to future school closures
 - THR basket- dietary diversity
 - Timing of closures- fast to respond for those who need it most
 - Inclusion of a wide group of stakeholders
 - Other external factors influencing food insecurity
 - Support for learning



Moving Forward, What is Needed?



- How can we improve the cross sectoral response (education, health, protection, and agriculture) so that students and families can access necessary services during an emergency?
 - How do we engage multiple sectors now in contingency planning?
 - What role do schools play in linking parents and families to social services?

Thank You

