GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Building national coalitions to end hunger through partnership, policy and collective action

CONCEPT NOTE



Executive Summary

Ending hunger is not simply a matter of producing more food. It requires governments, civil society, businesses, academic institutions, Indigenous communities, philanthropic organizations and citizens to work together as one coordinated system.

While many governments have adopted policies on food security, nutrition, poverty reduction, agriculture and sustainable development, implementation often remains fragmented across ministries and sectors. As a result, opportunities for collaboration, innovation and measurable impact are frequently lost.

The Zero Hunger Project Government Partnership Programme has been established to address this challenge.
The Programme provides governments with a structured partnership platform that strengthens collaboration, accelerates implementation of national priorities, and mobilizes cross-sector expertise in support of food security, nutrition and the human right to food.

Rather than creating parallel programmes, Zero Hunger Project serves as a neutral backbone organization that helps governments convene partners, coordinate action, share knowledge, pilot innovative solutions and measure collective impact.

The Programme aligns directly with Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), while supporting progress across health, education, economic development, climate resilience, social inclusion and the Sustainable Development Goals as a whole.

The Challenge

Governments around the world face an increasingly complex food landscape. Food insecurity is rising in many regions despite advances in agricultural productivity. Climate change, inflation, supply chain disruptions, conflict, population growth and changing dietary patterns continue to place pressure on national food systems.

At the same time, responsibility for food security is dispersed across numerous ministries and agencies, including:

- Agriculture
- Health
- Education
- Social Development
- Indigenous Affairs
- Environment
- Municipal Affairs
- Economic Development
- Emergency Management

Outside government, countless organizations are working on food-related issues, yet many operate independently with limited coordination.

The result is duplication, fragmented investment and missed opportunities for collective impact. No single ministry, organization or sector can solve hunger alone.

Partnership is no longer optional—it is essential.

Our Vision

A world where every person has reliable access to nutritious, culturally appropriate and sustainably produced food through collaborative, resilient and inclusive food systems.

Our Mission

To partner with governments in building collaborative ecosystems that transform food security commitments into measurable action through policy support, partnership development, innovation and community engagement.

Why Zero Hunger Project?

Zero Hunger Project was founded on a simple belief:
Ending hunger requires transforming the way organizations work together.Rather than delivering isolated programmes, Zero Hunger Project focuses on building the partnerships that enable lasting systems change.

The organization acts as a neutral convener, bringing together governments, businesses, academia, Indigenous leaders, youth, civil society and philanthropic organizations to design collaborative solutions that no single organization could achieve alone.

Our role is not to replace government leadership.
Our role is to strengthen it.

The Government Partnership Programme

The Government Partnership Programme is a long-term collaboration between Zero Hunger Project and national, provincial/state and municipal governments.
The Programme provides governments with access to a collaborative implementation platform designed to strengthen food security and nutrition initiatives while improving coordination across sectors.
Government partners become part of an international coalition committed to advancing Zero Hunger through collective action, shared learning and measurable impact.

The Government Partnership Programme

The Programme aims to:

- Strengthen food security and nutrition systems.
- Improve coordination across government ministries.
- Build partnerships between public, private and civil society sectors.
- Accelerate implementation of national and local priorities.
- Support evidence-informed policy development.
- Foster innovation through pilot initiatives.
- Increase public awareness and citizen participation.
- Measure and communicate collective impact.

STRATEGIC PILLARS



1. Policy & Systems Leadership

Supporting governments in strengthening policy, governance and institutional coordination.
Activities may include:

- Policy reviews
- Strategic planning
- Food systems assessments
- Right-to-food integration
- SDG alignment
- Cross-ministry coordination frameworks

2. Partnership & Coalition Building

Creating collaborative platforms that connect governments with:

- NGOs
- Community organizations
- Universities
- Businesses
- Farmers
- Youth organizations
- Indigenous communities
- International partners
- The objective is to reduce fragmentation and encourage collective ownership of food security outcomes.

3. Innovation & Demonstration Projects

Supporting governments to design, test and evaluate innovative solutions such as:

- School nutrition programmes
- Community food hubs
- Food waste reduction initiatives
- Local procurement models
- Healthy food access programmes
- Youth leadership initiatives
- Digital food system innovations

Successful pilots can be scaled across jurisdictions.

4. Public Engagement & Education

Supporting governments in building public understanding of food security through:

- Awareness campaigns
- Community engagement
- Schools programming
- Youth leadership
- Public dialogues
- National campaigns
- Annual Zero Hunger Week activities

5. Research, Measurement & Knowledge

Helping governments make evidence-informed decisions through:

- Baseline assessments
- Food system mapping
- Partnership mapping
- Monitoring frameworks
- Annual progress reporting
- Case studies
- Knowledge products

6. Global Learning & Leadership

Connecting governments with an international network of practitioners and decision-makers. Activities include:

- Government learning exchanges
- Annual summits
- Technical roundtables
- International case studies
- Leadership recognition
- Cross-country collaboration

What Zero Hunger Project Brings

A Neutral Partnership Platform
An independent organization capable of bringing together stakeholders who may not traditionally work together.

Cross-Sector Expertise
Access to a broad network spanning government, academia, business, philanthropy and civil society.

Partnership Design
Expertise in developing governance models, collaborative structures and multi-sector initiatives.

Systems Thinking
A focus on addressing root causes rather than isolated symptoms.

Programme Design
Support in designing scalable initiatives that can be replicated nationally or internationally.

Communications & Public Engagement
Professional campaigns, storytelling and public engagement strategies that strengthen public trust and participation.

Knowledge & Innovation
Access to international best practices and emerging innovations in food systems and nutrition.

Measurement & Accountability
Frameworks that help governments monitor progress and demonstrate measurable impact.

What We Ask From Government Partners

The Programme is built on shared responsibility rather than financial contribution alone. Government partners are invited to contribute through leadership, collaboration and institutional support. We ask participating governments to:

Leadership

- Publicly endorse the partnership.
- Designate a senior government champion.
- Appoint an operational focal point.

Collaboration

- Participate in Steering Committee meetings.
- Join technical working groups.
- Support cross-ministry collaboration.

Access

- Facilitate engagement with relevant ministries and agencies.
- Support access to public institutions where appropriate.
- Identify pilot communities or demonstration sites.

Knowledge

- Collaborate on data sharing where appropriate.
- Participate in research and evaluation.
- Share lessons learned.

Policy

- Consider recommendations emerging from collaborative work.
- Participate in policy dialogues.
- Support evidence-informed decision-making.

Communications

- Promote partnership activities.
- Participate in public events.
- Celebrate collective achievements.

Partnership Levels

Strategic Government Partner

Active collaboration on specific government priorities.
Includes:

- Dedicated advisory support
- Joint action planning
- Coalition development
- Policy dialogue
- Pilot development

Flagship Government Partner

A long-term demonstration partnership.
Includes:

- Multi-year collaboration
- National demonstration initiatives
- International visibility
- Research collaboration
- Annual impact reporting
- Leadership opportunities

Governance Model



The Programme is governed through a collaborative structure.

Government Steering Committee

Provides strategic direction and oversight.

Technical Working Groups

Focus on priority themes such as:

- Nutrition
- School food
- Agriculture
- Food waste
- Community resilience
- Youth engagement
- Data and measurement

Zero Hunger Project Secretariat

Acts as the backbone organization responsible for:

- Coordination
- Convening
- Communications
- Reporting
- Partnership management
- Knowledge exchange

Measuring Success

Success extends beyond meals served.

Indicators include:

- Partnerships established
- Ministries engaged
- Joint initiatives launched
- Policies strengthened
- Communities participating
- Citizens engaged
- Pilot projects implemented
- Knowledge products published
- Capacity-building activities delivered
- Food security outcomes improved
- SDG progress accelerated

Guiding Principles

The Programme is guided by the following principles:

- Collaboration over competition
- Systems thinking over isolated action
- Equity and inclusion
- Respect for Indigenous knowledge and local leadership
- Evidence-informed decision-making
- Transparency and accountability
- Shared ownership
- Sustainability
- Innovation
- Human dignity

A Shared Commitment

No government can end hunger alone.
No organization can transform food systems in isolation.

The Zero Hunger Project Government Partnership Programme provides a platform where governments and their partners can work collectively toward a future in which every person has access to nutritious food and every community has the opportunity to thrive.
Together, we can move beyond fragmented efforts and build coordinated systems that create lasting change.
Because ending hunger is not simply about providing food.
It is about building partnerships that make food security possible for everyone.

Invitation

Zero Hunger Project invites governments at all levels to join this growing coalition of leaders committed to transforming food systems through partnership, innovation and shared responsibility.
Together, we can turn commitments into action, and action into lasting impact.

Zero Hunger is possible—when we work together.

