Pamoja Tuwalishe is an innovative school meals program that is supporting 367 schools and communities to operationalize the National School Feeding Guidelines (NSFG). Implemented in support of the Government of Tanzania’s priority to improve learning outcomes and childhood nutrition, the Pamoja Tuwalishe program is funded by USDA McGovern–Dole, and is implemented Global Communities in schools and communities in Dodoma and Mara regions. Pamoja Tuwalishe equips and trains communities, local governments, and schools to utilize replicable program models that guide activities to improve student attendance, attentiveness, quality of learning and overall academic performance.

The Community–led School Feeding Model operationalizes the NSFG and enables schools, parents, communities, and local governments to develop customized approaches for their school’s context. This model creates community ownership, increases parents’ and community engagement and increases local government’s support and oversight. Teachers and administrators are trained and equipped to plan and manage the food stores, kitchens, and food serving areas. Parents and community leaders become the leaders in developing operational plans, contributing resources, monitoring progress, and sustaining school feeding activities. The Model equips local governments to promote, support, oversee, and invest in providing regular school meals. The program schools serve as Centers of Learning and Excellence, catalyzing future replication in additional schools.

Components of the Model

- The Operations Manual is the “How to Guide” with Standard Operating Procedures that clarify roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders involved.
- The Toolkit consists of 23 tools, including data collection forms, templates, job aids, checklists.
- The Digital Information and Learning System is cloud–based, accessible anytime, and consists of the Toolkit, Dashboards, and training materials.
- The Training Curriculum consists of 8 modules of self–led learning.

Students’ Benefits of Schools Meals:

- Enhances attendance & attentiveness
- Accelerates education outcomes
- Reduces short–term hunger
- Improves health and nutrition status
- Enriches growth into productive adults
- Maximizes unique Potential

Nicolas Ford
Chief of Party
nford@globalcommunities.org