



# IDF PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 26 September 2018

## School milk programmes nourishing millions of children around the world

Every year, World School Milk Day is celebrated all over the world on the last Wednesday of September to raise awareness on the benefits and success of school milk programmes. In addition to providing milk and/or dairy products, school milk programmes include food education. It helps to foster a better understanding of dairy products, including where they come from, how dairy products are made, their nutritional composition, and how they fit into the overall diet.

“Globally, School Milk programmes play a key role in ensuring that young children have access to nutritious foods. This is vital given the role nutrition plays in long-term growth and development,” said IDF President, Dr Judith Bryans.

IDF members around the world participate in these celebrations through different activities such as a milk lunch party, school activities, media activities or a visit to a dairy farm.

“This celebration of School Milk programmes demonstrates the importance of milk and dairy foods which are essential in a healthy and balanced diet, particularly for young children,” said IDF Director General Caroline Emond.

In 2013, the FAO and IDF published a report on: *The contribution of school milk programmes to the nutrition of children worldwide*. See <https://store.fil-idf.org/product/the-contribution-of-school-milk-programmes-to-the-nutrition-of-children-worldwide/>

World School Milk Day was initiated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in September 2000.

To view the IDF World School Milk video and South Africa's School Milk Programme with IDF Action Team leader, Maretha Vermaak, and the promotional activities of members, see <https://www.fil-idf.org/world-school-milk-day-2018/>

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**International Dairy Federation**

The International Dairy Federation is the leading source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders of the dairy chain since 1903. IDF engages all stakeholders in productive activities and research projects to further current knowledge and science on a wide range of issues. Today, dairy is one of the most vibrant and strategic sectors, with a major impact on national economies, public health and the environment. Through its working bodies, events and work programme, IDF provides a common platform, systems and processes for the global dairy sector to come together to reach consensus. Given its consensus-building capacity, IDF represents the global voice of dairy towards stakeholders and intergovernmental organisations. For more information, please visit [www.fil-idf.org](http://www.fil-idf.org).

**International Dairy Federation**

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