

# School Meal Programs Around the World

## 35 European Countries



## 29 Asian Countries



## 1 North American Country



## 23 Latin American & Caribbean Countries



## 42 African Countries



## 9 Oceanian Countries



## Data gathered through other avenues



## THE SCHOOL FEEDING WORLD AT A GLANCE



**125** Countries with School Feeding



**\$35.3** Billion Budget



**330.3**

million children received food through school feeding.

**81%**

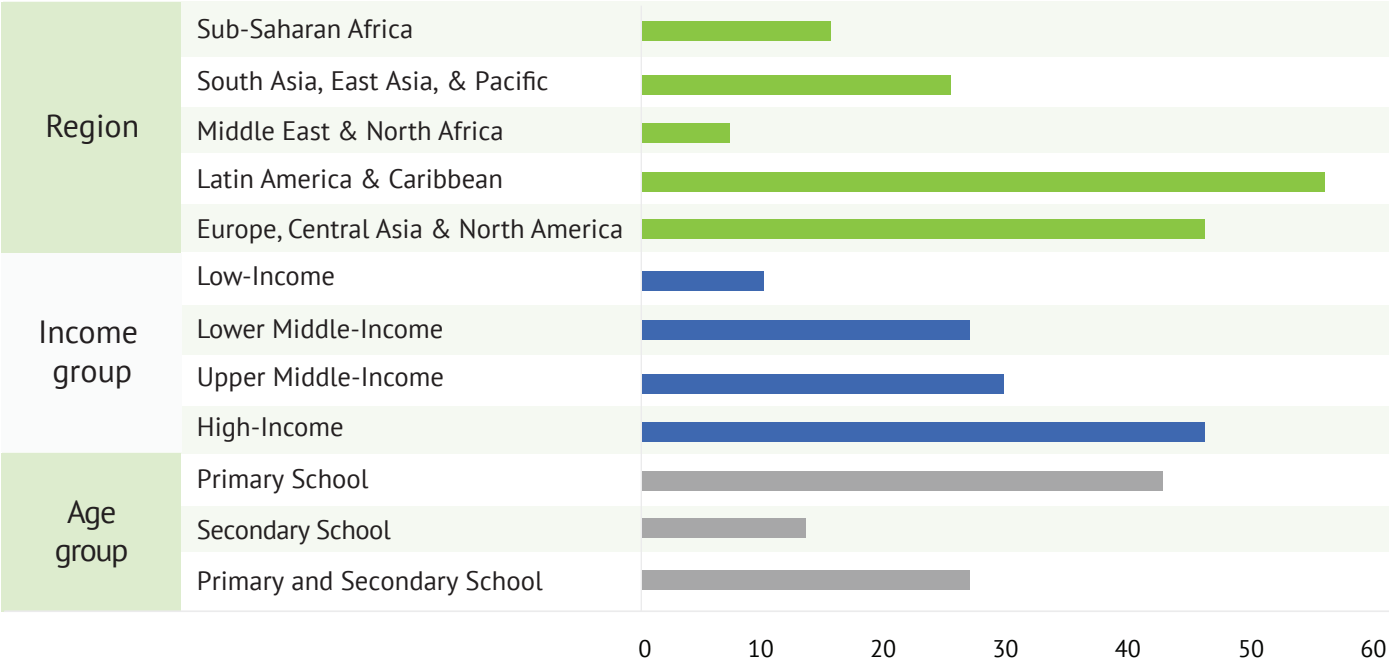
of the world's population live in the

**139**

countries for which data are available.

# COVERAGE

School feeding coverage rates\* across regions and income groups



\*Share of children of primary and secondary school age that received food through school meal programs.

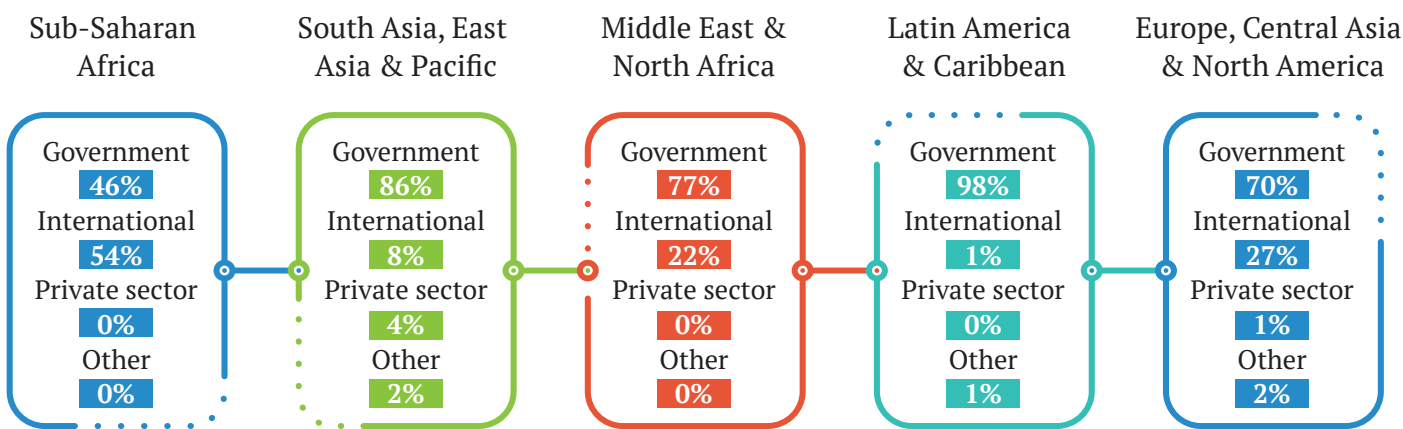
26

countries stand out as reaching at least 95% of enrolled primary school students:  
**Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Estonia, Finland, Guatemala, Iceland, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Mongolia, Palau, Portugal, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, São Tomé and Príncipe, Slovenia, Sweden, Timor Leste, United Arab Emirates, and eSwatini.**

7

countries stand out as reaching at least 95% of enrolled secondary school students:  
**Estonia, Finland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal, United Arab Emirates, and eSwatini.**

# SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS BY REGION



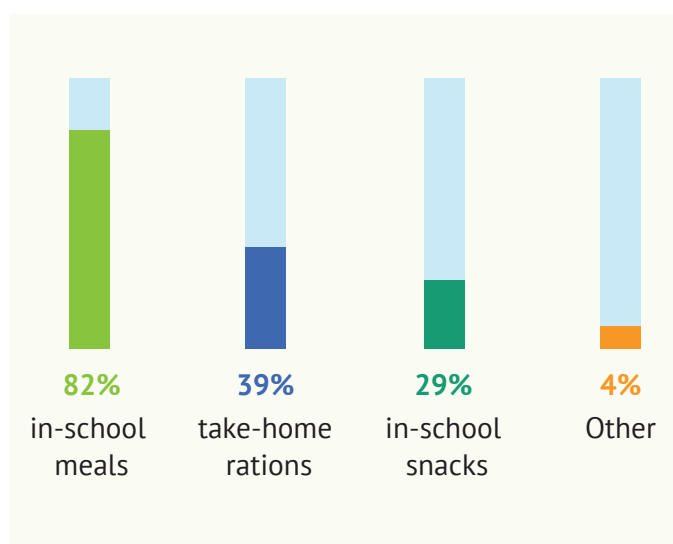
The government covers **100%** of the cost of school feeding in **53** countries.

## National Laws, Policies, or Standards Related to School Feeding (% of countries)



## DISTRIBUTION METHOD AND FOOD BASKETS (% of programs)

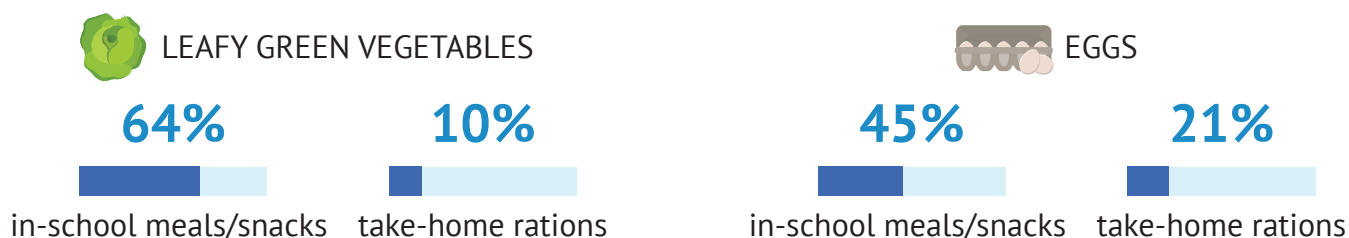
### DISTRIBUTION METHOD



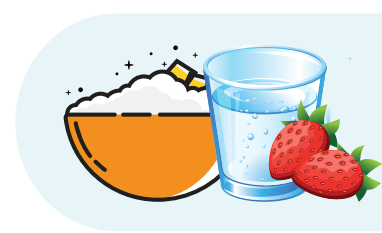
The share of programs that provided take-home rations was 39% in 2020/21. This is 14 percentage points higher than the value from two years earlier. **The high usage of take-home rations in 2020/21 may reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Note: Data from 2019 and 2021 reflect somewhat different countries that responded to each survey.

### FOOD BASKETS VARY BY DISTRIBUTION METHOD



# FOOD BASKET DIVERSITY ACROSS PROGRAMS BY REGION & INCOME GROUP



Average number of food categories per basket globally = **6.9**



Food categories are: Fruits, oil, meat, green leafy vegetables, roots/tubers, poultry, other vegetables, legumes/nuts, grains/cereals, dairy products, fish, eggs



## HOW SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS RESPONDED TO COVID-19

**41%** of programs reported that they had to cease feeding operations at least temporarily.

**64%** of programs reported a change in the number of children reached.

**55%** of programs reported a change in feeding modality (often from in-school meals to take-home rations).

**29%** of programs reported a change in beneficiaries (often to include students' families).



The analysis is based on the **Global Survey of School Meal Programs © database**, covering 139 countries and 183 large-scale school feeding programs. See **School Meals Around the World: Results from the 2021 Global Survey of School Meal Programs ©** <https://gcnf.org/global-reports/> for regional comparisons.

Suggested Citation: Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2022. School Meal Programs Around the World. Accessed at <https://gcnf.org/infographics-and-tools/>

For more information, visit <https://gcnf.org> or contact [info@gcnf.org](mailto:info@gcnf.org).