

## School Meal Programs Around the World

### THE SCHOOL FEEDING WORLD AT A GLANCE

**125** Countries with School Feeding

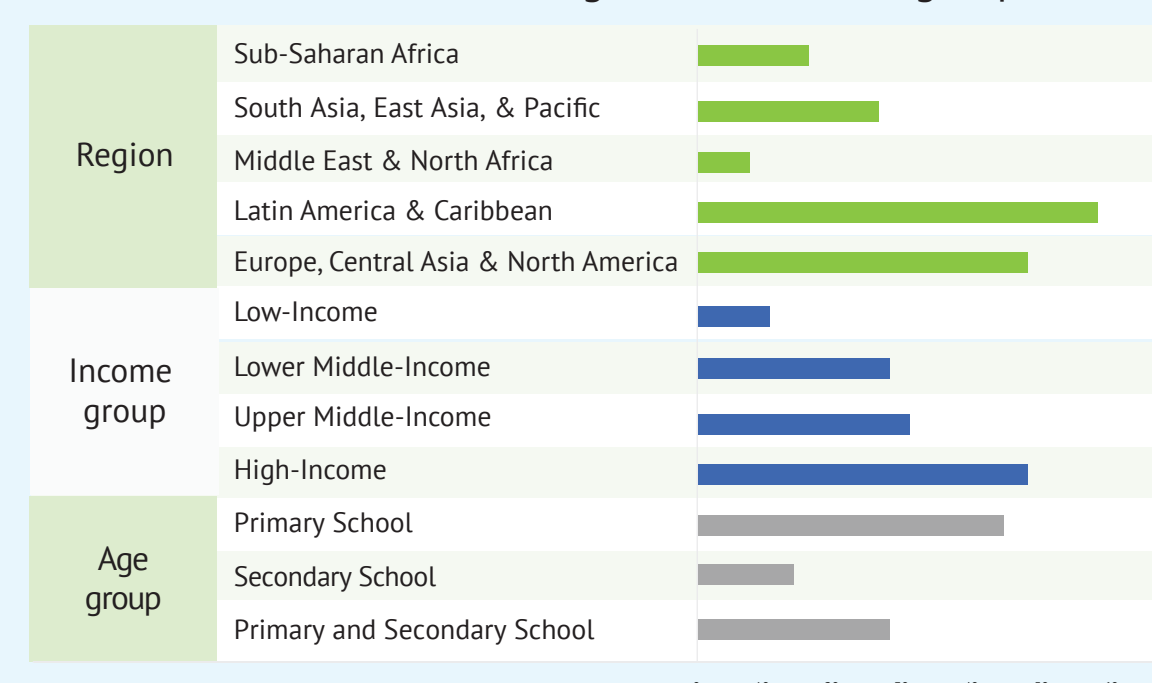
**81%** of the world's population live in the

**139** countries for which data are available.

**\$35.3** Billion Budget

**330.3** million children received food through school feeding.

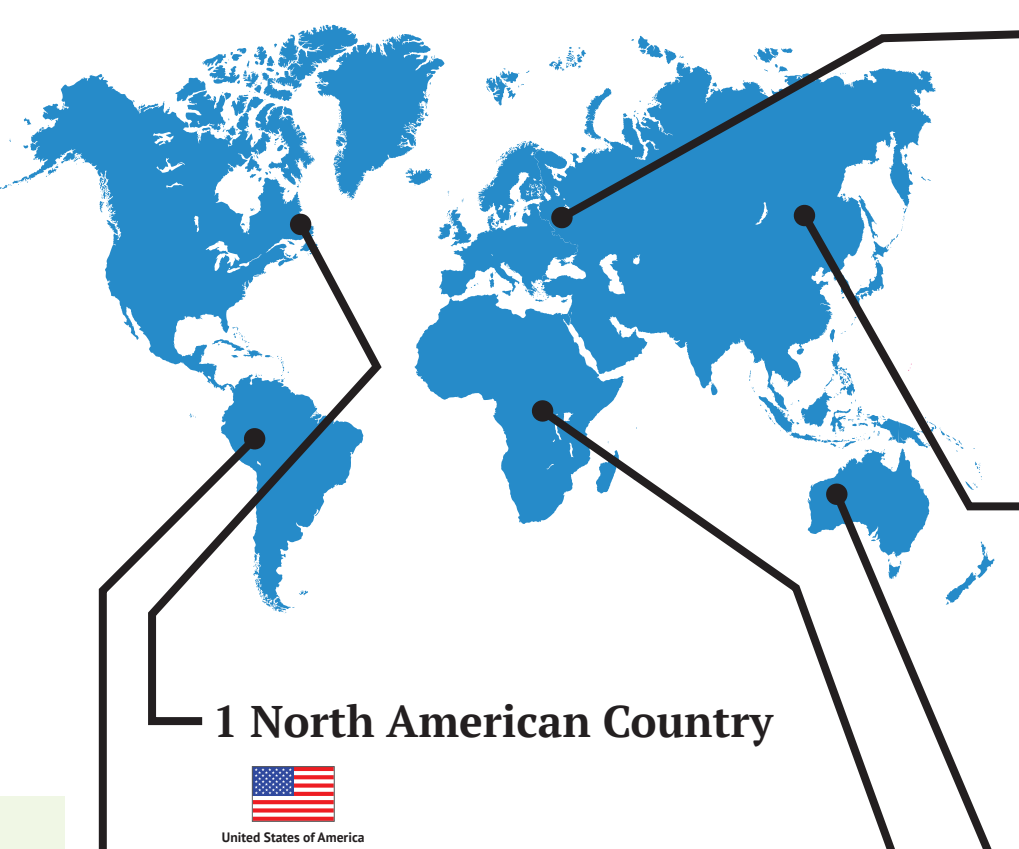
#### COVERAGE School feeding coverage rates\* across regions and income groups



\*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.

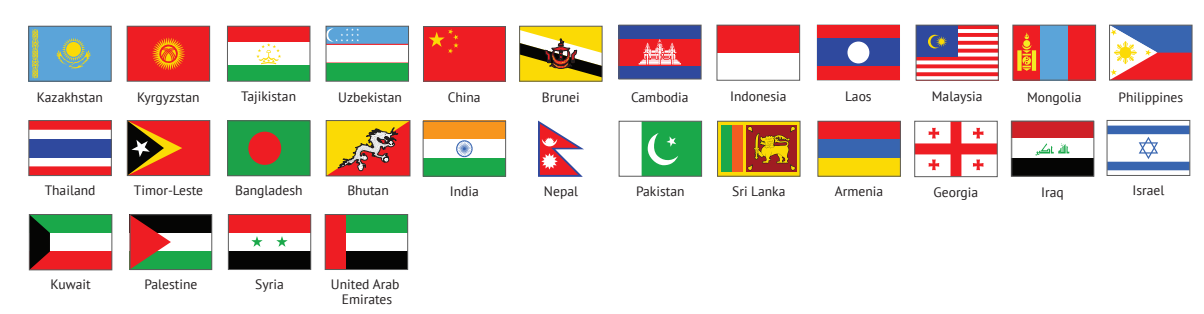
**7** countries stand out as reaching at least 95% of enrolled secondary school students: Estonia, Finland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal, United Arab Emirates, and eSwatini.



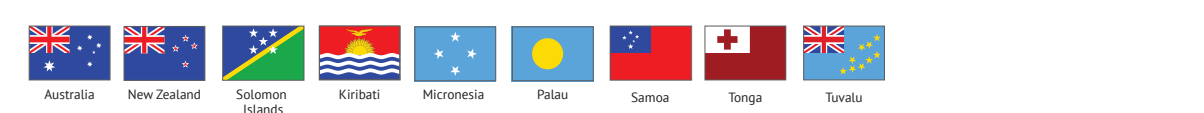
#### 36 European Countries



#### 28 Asian Countries



#### 9 Oceanian Countries



#### 42 African Countries



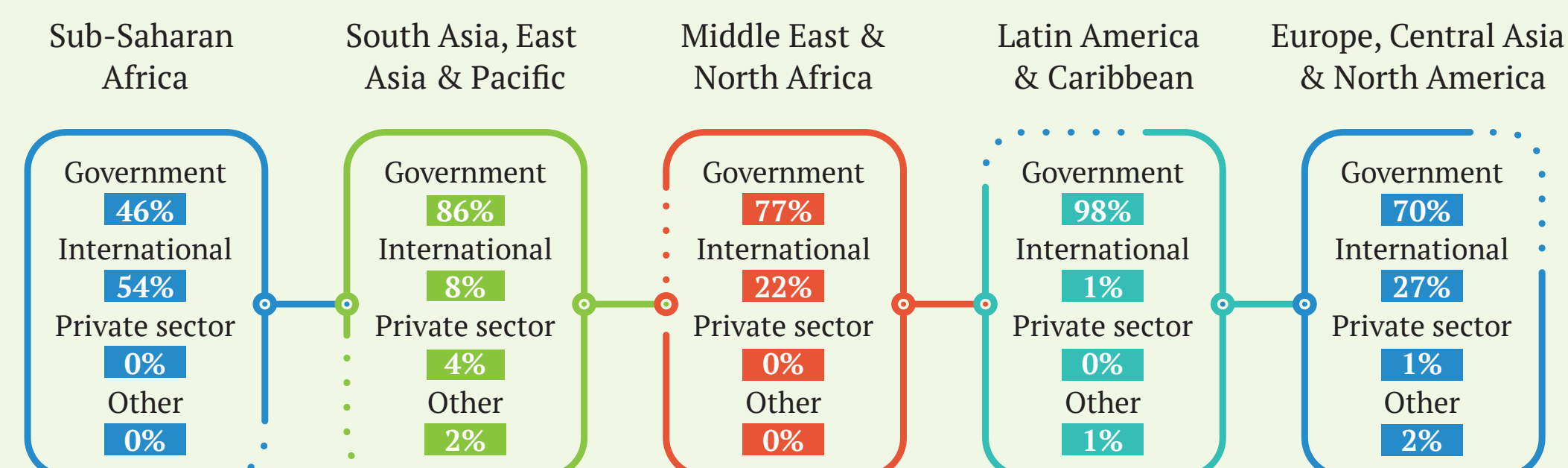
#### 23 Latin American & Caribbean Countries



Data gathered through other avenues



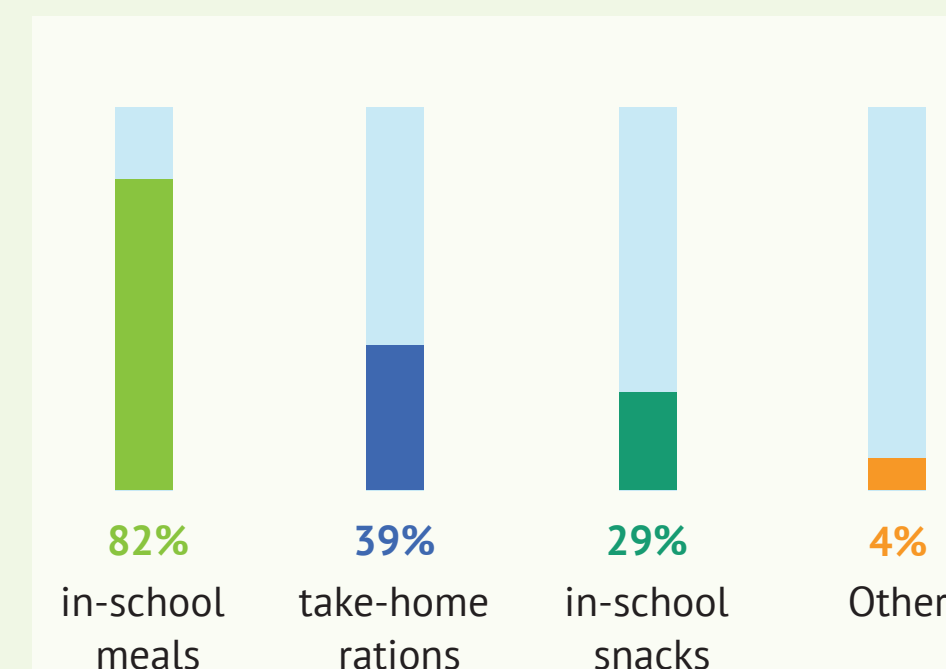
### SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS BY REGION



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

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

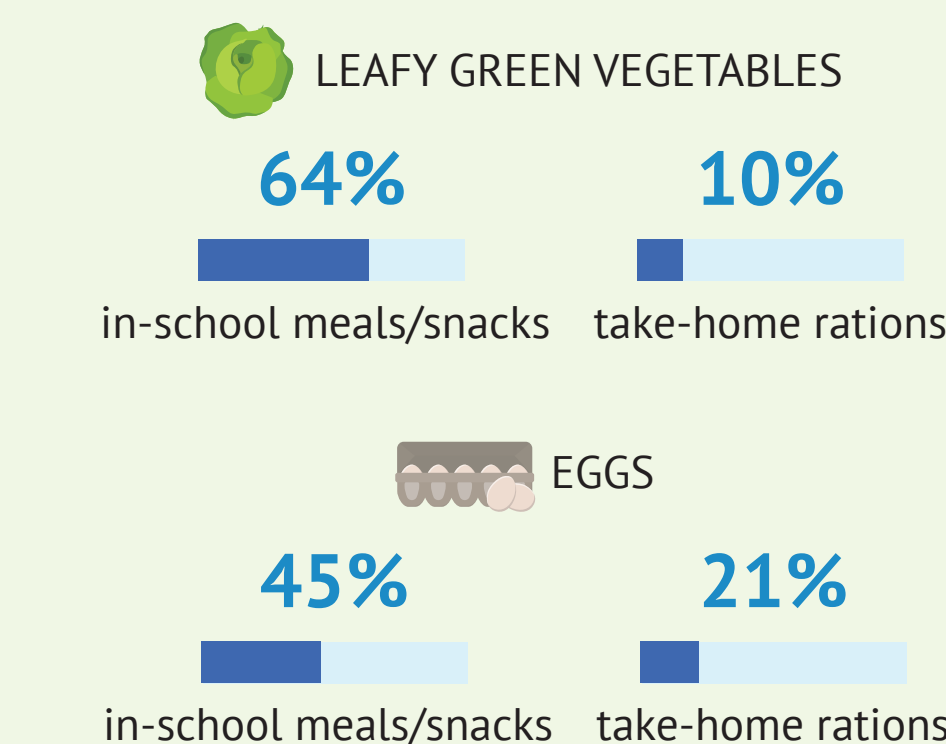
#### DISTRIBUTION METHOD



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.**

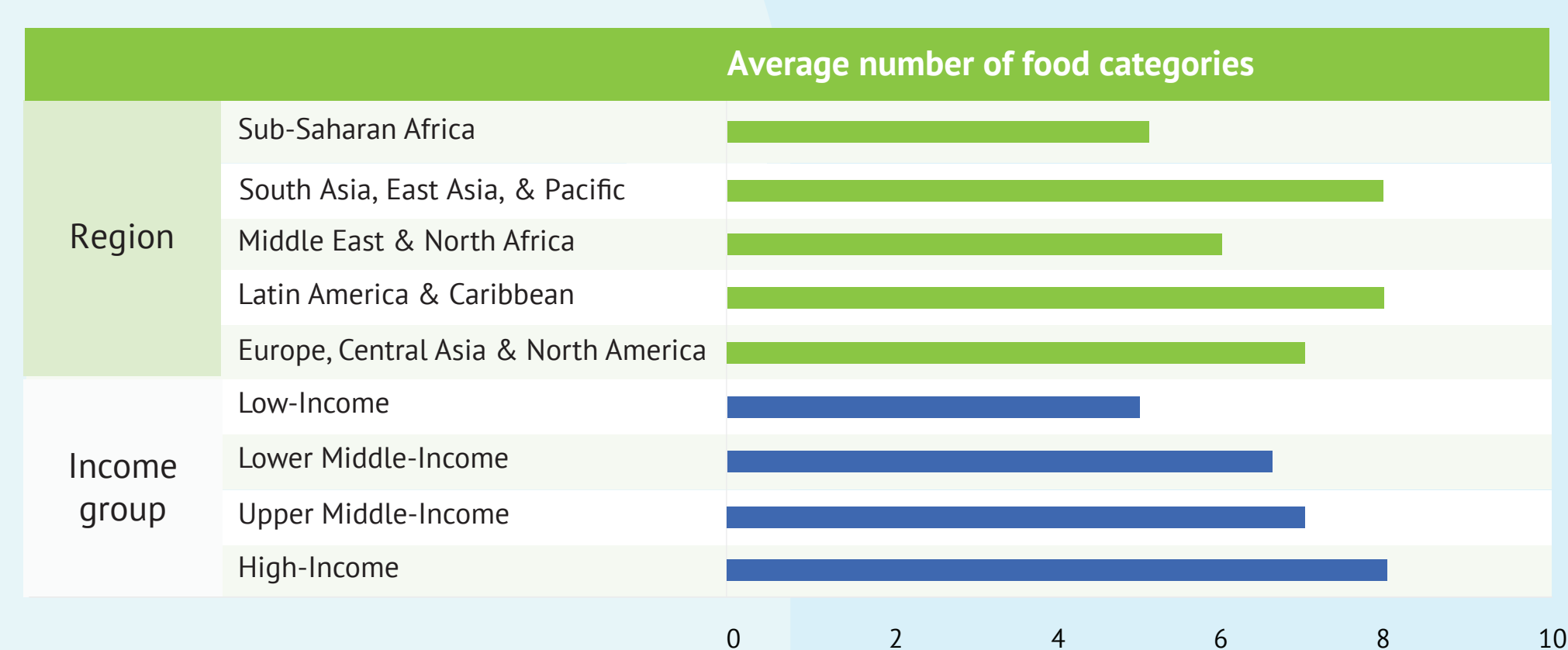
Note: Data from 2019 and 2021 reflect somewhat different countries that responded to each survey.

#### 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).