School Meal Programs Around the World

### 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.**

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#### 36 European Countries

[Flag icons representing European countries]

#### 28 Asian Countries

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#### 23 Latin American & Caribbean Countries

[Flag icons representing Latin American & Caribbean countries]

#### 42 African Countries

[Flag icons representing African countries]

#### 1 North American Country

[Flag icon for United States of America]

#### 9 Oceanian Countries

[Flag icons representing Oceanian countries]

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Data gathered through other avenues:

- Australia
- Canada
- India
- Kyrgyzstan
- New Zealand

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Global Child Nutrition Foundation

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**COVERAGE**

School feeding coverage rates* across regions and income groups

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Primary School</th>
<th>Secondary School</th>
<th>Primary and Secondary School</th>
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<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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*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**

- **Sub-Saharan Africa**
  - Government: 46%
  - International: 54%
  - Private sector: 0%
  - Other: 0%

- **South Asia, East Asia & Pacific**
  - Government: 86%
  - International: 14%
  - Private sector: 4%
  - Other: 2%

- **Middle East & North Africa**
  - Government: 77%
  - International: 22%
  - Private sector: 0%
  - Other: 2%

- **Latin America & Caribbean**
  - Government: 98%
  - International: 2%
  - Private sector: 0%
  - Other: 1%

- **Europe, Central Asia & North America**
  - Government: 70%
  - International: 30%
  - Private sector: 1%
  - Other: 2%
The government covers 100% of the cost of school feeding in 53 countries.

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

- National School Feeding Policy: 80%
- Health: 52%
- Nutrition: 72%
- Agriculture: 39%
- Food Safety: 59%
- Private Sector: 18%

Programs with an objective to meet nutritional/health goals: 93%
Programs with nutritionists involved: 63%
Programs with an objective to meet agricultural goals: 40%
Programs that engage directly with farmers: 59%

DISTRIBUTION METHOD AND FOOD BASKETS (% of programs)

DISTRIBUTION METHOD

- 82% in-school meals
- 39% take-home rations
- 29% in-school snacks
- 4% Other

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

- LEAFY GREEN VEGETABLES
  - In-school meals/snacks: 64%
  - Take-home rations: 10%

- EGGS
  - In-school meals/snacks: 45%
  - Take-home rations: 21%
FOOD BASKET DIVERSITY ACROSS PROGRAMS BY REGION & INCOME GROUP

Average number of food categories per basket globally = 6.9

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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).