School Meal Programs Around the World

**THE SCHOOL FEEDING WORLD AT A GLANCE**

- **125 Countries with School Feeding** of the world’s population live in these countries for which data are available.
- **$35.3 Billion Budget**
- **$30.3 million children received food through school feeding.**

**COVERAGE**

School feeding coverage rates% across regions and income groups:

- **Africa:** 81%
- **Europe, Central Asia & North America:** 46%
- **South Asia, East Asia & Pacific:** 0%
- **Latin America & Caribbean:** 77%
- **Upper Middle-Income:** 0%
- **Lower Middle-Income:** 46%
- **Low-Income:** 22%
- **High-Income:** 70%

**Regions**:

- **Sub-Saharan Africa**
- **South Asia, East Asia & Pacific**
- **Middle East & North Africa**
- **Latin America & Caribbean**
- **Europe, Central Asia & North America**
- **Upper Middle-Income**
- **Lower Middle-Income**
- **Low-Income**
- **High-Income**

**Income groups**:

- **Private sector**
- **International**
- **Government**
- **Other**

Data gathered through other avenues:

- **23 Latin American & Caribbean Countries**
- **1 North American Country**

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

**DISTRIBUTION METHOD**

The share of programs that provided take-home rations was 59% 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**

- **Leaves & Green Vegetables**: 64%
- **In-school meals/snacks**: 10%
- **Take-home rations**: 45%
- **In-school meals/snacks**: 21%
- **Take-home rations**: 10%

**FOOD BASKET DIVERSITY ACROSS PROGRAMS BY REGION & INCOME GROUP**

Average number of food categories per basket globally = 6.9

**Regions**:

- **Sub-Saharan Africa**
- **South Asia, East Asia, & Pacific**
- **Middle East & North Africa**
- **Latin America & Caribbean**
- **Europe, Central Asia & North America**

**Income groups**:

- **Low-Income**
- **Lower Middle-Income**
- **Upper Middle-Income**
- **High-Income**

**FOOD CATEGORIES**

- Fruits, oil, meat, green leaves
- Roots/tubers, vegetables, 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).


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