

## School Meal Programs in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

All data from the 2020 school year.

Statistics reported here cover

**15** of 15 ECOWAS countries.

**30** school meal programs in total.

more than **2.18 million** children receiving food

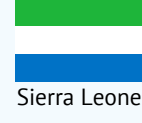
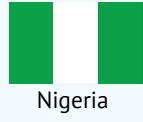
**\$30** school feeding aggregate budget per child per year (USD)



**35.3%** Primary school age coverage  
**1.3%** Secondary school age coverage  
*Aggregate coverage rate (% of children)*

The highest primary and secondary school age coverage rates are found in

**Cabo Verde (64%)**    **The Gambia (34%)**  
**Burkina Faso (53%)**    **Ghana (28%)**  
**Guinea-Bissau (38%)**



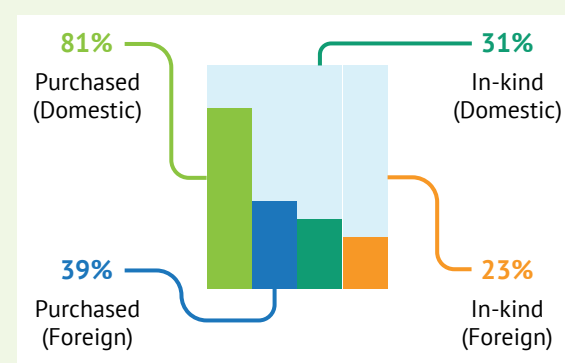
## SHARE OF COUNTRIES WITH NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, OR STANDARDS RELATED TO SCHOOL FEEDING



**84%** of funding in the ECOWAS region comes from **government sources**.

**50%** of programs across the ECOWAS region report **adequate funding**.

## FOOD SOURCES (% of programs)



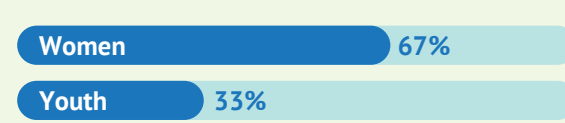
## COVID-19 AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

Apart from the Covid-19 pandemic, the most common type of emergency reported was **conflict**, followed by **slow-onset emergencies** (e.g., drought) and **economic crises**.

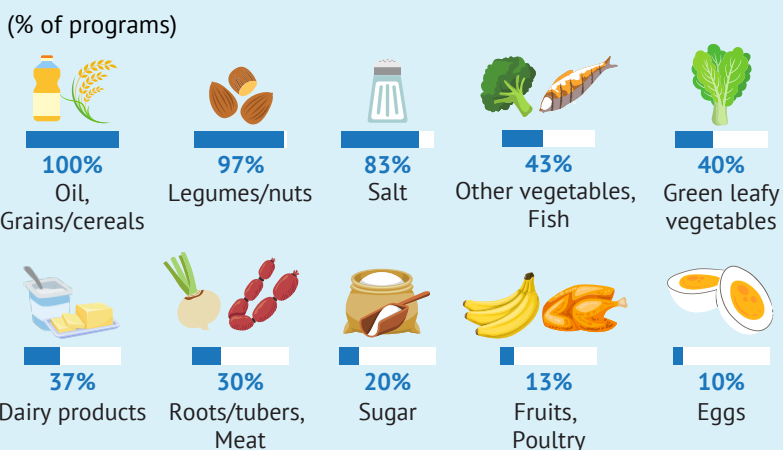
**47%** of programs reported experiencing at least **one** emergency.

**30%** of programs reported experiencing at least **two** emergencies.

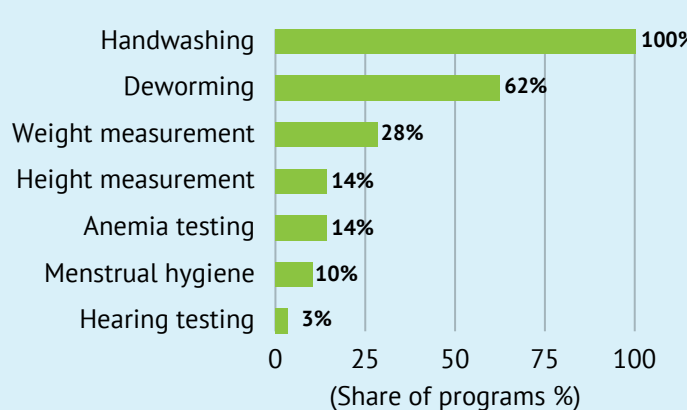
## FOCUS ON CREATING JOBS FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH (% of programs)



## FOOD ITEMS SERVED IN SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS (% of programs)



## PREVALENCE OF COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES



# ECOWAS School Meal Programs In Action



Cooks in the **Côte d'Ivoire** school feeding program are predominantly women and are paid in cash. Women's agricultural groups also supply the school canteens, and leadership positions in canteen monitoring committees are held by women.

In **The Gambia**, Vitamin A-rich orange flesh sweet potatoes are served to address micronutrient deficiencies.



Recent successes related to school feeding in **Burkina Faso** include an innovation to transfer financial resources to municipalities to purchase food locally.

In **Guinea**, students' families contribute to the school meal programs through voluntary in-kind contributions, as directed by local school management committees. They also construct the kitchens, refectories, and stores, and provide wood.



**Cabo Verde** has the highest school feeding coverage rate in the ECOWAS region and 4th highest in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In **Niger**, school feeding is understood to improve the retention of girls in school (especially in rural areas) and provide them with social protection, thereby reducing the risk of early marriage.



In **Sierra Leone**, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions introduced (such as market lockdowns), take-home rations were provided to households in at least some project communities to alleviate food shortages. This elicited greater community interest in, and support for, the school feeding programs.

The *National Home-Grown School Feeding Program (NHGSFP)* in **Nigeria** procures all food domestically with about 90% coming from local sources.



Recent school feeding successes in **Liberia** include the development of the national school feeding policy and code of conduct, as well as the development of the *ZOA Home-Grown School Feeding Programme* operations manual.

In-kind donations from domestic sources tend to come from within the local community, often from students' parents. Thus, in **Benin, Mali, and Togo**, community members are encouraged to provide in-kind contributions to support and ensure local ownership of the school feeding programs.



The *School Canteen Program* in **Guinea-Bissau** prioritizes procurement from family farmers with agricultural subsidies, school feeding-specific training, and purchase agreements set prior to harvest.

An estimated 80% of food in the *Ghana School Feeding Program* is procured from local sources near the schools.



In the *Support for School Feeding in Senegal* program, cash transfers are provided to schools, and purchases are then made by school management committees from selected local retailers. Further up the food supply chain, small-scale farmers (including women's groups) sell products, such as cereals and cowpeas, to the retailers.